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平成22年4月9日 第三種郵便物認可（4月14日1月23日及び12月26日休刊）
発行所 星条園新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号

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Base commander discusses options with tower residents

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Philippine storm death toll nears 340

Page 13

Residents view a collapsed bridge after it was hit by a storm in Infanta town, Quezon province, in the eastern Philippines on Tuesday. The death toll from landslides and flash floods in the eastern Philippines jumped to nearly 340 with 150 others missing Tuesday, most of them from a region still reeling from last week's deadly typhoon. Forecasters are predicting a new typhoon circling off the Pacific coast could hit the area as early as Wednesday.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Democracy in Hong Kong: The top U.S. diplomat in Hong Kong said Tuesday the government should respect people's wishes on the issue of holding a referendum on direct elections in this partially democratic Chinese territory.

Pro-democracy figures tried to push a legislative motion backing the referendum on Monday, but it was defeated by pro-government lawmakers who hold a majority in the legislature.

Beijing had earlier warned lawmakers against supporting the referendum, which it sees as a challenge to China's constitutional system.

Ukraine election turmoil: Supporters of Ukraine's opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko broke off talks Tuesday with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, who was declared the winner of the presidential election.

Yushchenko's campaign chief, Oleksandr Zinchenko, accused authorities of trying to drag out the talks, which were launched last week thanks to the European Union's mediation.

Zinchenko spoke after pro-government lawmakers blocked the opposition's attempt to vote no-confidence in Yanukovich's Cabinet.

Pakistan's presidency: Pakistan's military president, under fire for reneging on promises to restore full democracy, will keep his dual role as army chief and head of state under legislation enacted Tuesday by close supporters while the general was on a trip to Latin America and Washington.

There was no doubt that the legislation would be signed, but the timing appeared to indicate that President Gen. Pervez Musharraf did not want to put his name on the controversial bill, which has drawn heavy criticism from the opposition.

Instead, it was signed into law by Mohammed Mian Soomro, who as chairman of the Senate is acting president while Musharraf is away.

Afghan opium crop: Afghan President Hamid Karzai has lodged a protest with British and U.S. officials after a mystery aircraft sprayed herbicide on opium crops without authorization, his spokesman said Tuesday.

Villagers in eastern Nangarhar province complained two weeks ago that a plane had dusted their fields and villages with a chemical that killed their crops and made them sick.

The government ordered an investiga-



Cleric's terrorism trial: Militant Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, center, is escorted by security officers and his defense lawyer during a break Tuesday in his trial in Jakarta, Indonesia. Prosecutors suffered a setback Tuesday when a key witness failed to link the radical cleric to any crimes. Bashir, 66, is accused of heading the al-Qaida-linked terror group Jamaah Islamiyah, and of inciting his followers to take part in the 2002 Bali bombings and the JW Marriott Hotel attack in Jakarta last year. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

tion, which confirmed that a substance had been sprayed in two districts, probably from the air, spokesman Jawed Ludin said.

States

Girl sold into marriage: A refugee from Kosovo pleaded guilty to attempted rape in the case of a 15-year-old girl who said her mother sold her to be his bride for \$3,000.

Bekim Lapjani, 22, of Rochester, N.Y., was initially charged with first-degree rape. His attorney, David Foster, said Lapjani pleaded guilty Monday to the reduced charge because he believed the sex was consensual.

The felony conviction will likely send him to prison for four years, followed by deportation.

New Jersey governor's race: Republican Bret Schundler, who lost the 2001 New Jersey governor's race to the recently resigned Democrat James E. McGreevey, announced Monday he will seek the job again in 2005.

Schundler told cheering supporters that he would cut taxes by keeping state spend-

ing below the rate of economic growth. He cut taxes while mayor of Jersey City from 1992 to 2001.

He is the second prominent Republican to announce he will seek the party's gubernatorial nomination in as many weeks. Businessman Douglas R. Forrester, who lost a bid for U.S. Senate in 2002, announced last week that he will run for governor.

New York Times libel suit: A federal judge has dismissed a libel suit brought against The New York Times by bioterrorism expert Steven Hatfill, who claimed the newspaper falsely insinuated he was responsible for the deadly anthrax attacks in 2001.

U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton also dismissed Hatfill's lawsuit against Times columnist Nicholas Kristof, who wrote several columns in 2002 on the FBI's handling of the anthrax investigation.

Hilton ruled that Kristof's columns did not defame Hatfill, and that they accurately reflected the state of the FBI's investigation, in which Hatfill was labeled "a person of interest" by Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Stories and photo from wire services

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Safety measures squeeze Misawa parking

Base commander discusses short-term solutions with tower residents

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — The new landscaping buttressing 13 towers here is intended to keep terrorists with car bombs at bay.

But safety comes at a price: the cost of time, parking — or lack thereof.

Mandated by the Air Force after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, the force-protection measures include low walls topped with dirt and grass around each tower's perimeter, keeping cars at least 50 feet away and reducing available parking for tower residents.

That means for mothers such as Marcella Melton, "walking from her car to Tower 133 with three young children in tow can seem like miles.

"Sometimes we'd rather just go driving until something opens up," she said.

Despite the inconvenience and the dread of trudging through the snow this winter, Melton and other tower residents are encouraged that the base's senior leader is trying to alleviate their predicament.

"He is really trying to solve everybody's concerns," Melton said.

Brig. Gen. Bill Rew, 35th Fighter Wing and Misawa Air Base installation commander, is visiting each tower individually in a series of nightly meetings that started last week.

"I don't want you all to worry about getting tickets, and I don't want you to worry about walking through the snow two miles each way from your car," Rew told about 30 residents of Tower 1339 on Monday night. "There's nothing we can do about 9/11 and the force-protection procedures in place, but there is something we



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Brig. Gen. Bill Rew, 35th Fighter Wing and Misawa Air Base installation commander, discusses parking with the base's Tower 1339 residents Monday night. Rew is holding a series of meetings with tower residents to come up with short-term solutions to a severe parking shortage. The base's 13 towers lost 368 parking spaces due to force protection landscaping, though some have since been regained through temporary fixes such as on-street parking.

can do about the current situation."

Tower 1339 was hit the hardest: The new landscaping slashed available parking from 133 to 65 spots, although the tower currently has 85 spaces with nearby on-street parking. There are 68 units in the tower.

"I couldn't find a spot here so I went across the street," Rew said about his attempt to park at the tower before the meeting.

Unfortunately, he said, it will take millions of dollars in Military Family Housing funds —

money the wing doesn't have — to permanently remedy the problem by laying down asphalt for more parking lots.

But there are some creative, short-term fixes the general has in mind.

"I don't want to do any of this stuff without talking to your first," he told tower residents.

With 35th Civil Engineer Commander Lt. Col. Dave Maharrey and other senior leaders also in attendance, Rew said those ideas include converting nearby tennis and basketball courts into temporary parking. Parking on the ten-

nis courts, minus the nets, would boost parking by about 50 spaces, Rew said, while basketball court parking would add another 32.

"What I don't know is how much the basketball and tennis courts get used," Rew said.

Military dependent and tower resident Laphelia Thomas said children would have to cross the street to play basketball if the tower court was made into parking.

"I don't agree with that," she said.

But other short-term solutions were less appealing to residents,

such as reducing parking spaces to 2-3 meters from 2.5 meters. Angled parking on the streets also was suggested, but base officials said roadways then would not be wide enough for safe traffic flow and snow removal. Designated parking spaces also would not work, Rew said, "because I can't even give one per tower occupant for what you have."

"If there was a simple answer, we would have done it a long time ago," Rew said. "I don't have a lot of money, I have a lot of paint, and I have some construction capability."

A hand count at the end of the hour-long meeting showed unanimous approval for conversion of only the tennis courts into parking. Rew said he would talk to Maharrey "and price that option out."

For the long term — five to six years down the road — base officials are considering converting the tennis and basketball courts and playground into permanent parking, and eliminating the street parking, to provide 182 spaces for the tower. That number includes two parking spaces per unit, two handicapped slots and six for visitors.

In total, 368 parking spots for 13 towers on base were lost due to anti-terrorism landscaping, according to Maharrey. But 53 since have been regained through on-street parking in the North Area and at Towers 115 and 116, he noted.

"In addition, we have begun adding back about another 120 with some creative parking solutions," he said in a written statement.

The tower force-protection project started about a year ago and is to finish this spring, according to base officials.

Rew was to meet with residents at two more towers Tuesday; his last meeting is Monday at 7 p.m. in Tower 1335.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@stripes.com

Sailor's death ruled drowning

Japanese fishermen find body in full diving gear in Guam channel

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

Petty Officer 1st Class Paul G. Richardson, a member of the crew of the submarine tender USS Frank Cable, was found dead Friday by two Japanese fishermen in the Asan Channel, Navy officials said.

The family of the 36-year-old sailor, who was unmarried, was notified that Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola determined Richardson died from drowning, according to Guam Naval Base officials.

Richardson was a machinist's mate on the USS Frank Cable, Lt. Cmdr. Marc Boyd, a U.S. Seventh Fleet spokesman, said late Tuesday evening. The Seventh Fleet vessel, operating from Guam Naval Base, is the Navy's only tender still in service.

Boyd said he did not know if Navy officials had considered Richardson missing but said the petty officer "was on leave status at the time his body was found."

Two Japanese fishermen found the body, in full diving gear including two scuba tanks

and suggested he could have run out of air while under water.

"Conditions surrounding the sailor's death are under investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in conjunction with local authorities," Boyd said.

All military personnel, whether permanently assigned or visiting the Marianas, are required to watch a 30-minute water safety training video prior to entering the ocean," wrote Senior Chief Petty Officer Jonathan Annis, a Guam Naval Base spokesman.

"In addition," he stated, "certain rules apply to water activities for military personnel, especially at beaches on military installations and in any dangerous reef and surf zones."

Richardson was the 20th person and the only U.S. servicemember to drown in Guam waters this year, he said.

"Risk management practices and the buddy system are strongly encouraged for all military personnel participating in any outdoor activities in the region," Annis stated.

Six people drowned in 2003 and 2002 each, according to a local news report.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylberg@stripes.com

Gas prices up at on-base pumps

Gas prices at on-base pumps in Japan and Okinawa are 10 cents higher this month than last and up a few cents in South Korea and Guam, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service stated in a news release.

As of Wednesday, mid-grade unleaded fuel is \$1.94 per gallon over November's \$1.84 in Japan and Okinawa. Diesel fuel there is \$1.81, up from \$1.71 in November.

In South Korea, gas is up three cents per gallon. Unleaded fuel is \$2.05 per gallon, up from \$2.02. Premium unleaded gas is \$2.24 per gallon, up from \$2.21 last month.

Diesel fuel in S. Korea is \$2.22, up nine cents from November's \$2.13. At an off-post gas station in Seoul on Tuesday, regular unleaded was listed at \$4.97 per gallon.

On Guam, unleaded fuel is \$2.06, up two cents from \$2.04. Premium unleaded is \$2.26, up four cents from \$2.22.

AAFFS says it bases its prices on U.S. Department of Energy averages for the previous four-week period.

Yokosuka to celebrate Hanukkah

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Servicemembers and Department of Defense ID card holders in the Kanto Plain are invited to a celebration of the first night of Hanukkah at Yokosuka Naval Base.

The Yokosuka Jewish Community will have a dairy potluck dinner starting at 5 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Chapel of Hope Fellowship Hall. The dinner will feature candle lighting, Jewish music and art for children.

Contact Lt. j.g. Tobe Pilato at DSN 243-4073 or Cindy Jones at DSN 246-7858 for information.

From staff reports

DOD tests efficacy of smaller flu vaccine dose

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Pentagon, together with several federal health agencies, is conducting a study to see if a half-dose of flu vaccine is as effective in healthy people as a full dose.

Researchers are hoping that the results duplicate a 2001 study performed at the University of Rochester in New York, which showed that the half-dose does work in such populations.

If so, the study potentially "could double the vaccine supply," according to Maj. Molly Klotz, a physician and research fellow at Allergy-Immunology Department at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The study, begun in early November, was prompted by this year's vaccine shortage, according to Col. John Grabenstein, deputy director of the Military Vaccine Program in Arlington.

Members of the government's National Vaccine Advisory Committee, which includes many military health organizations, recalled that the University of Rochester's study of half-doses of flu vaccine administered to more than 1,000 healthy people had offered "promising" results, Gra-

benstein said.

Although the vaccine changes composition each year, the components are not drastically different, Klotz said Monday at the Pentagon.

So if half-doses of two different versions of the vaccine proved to provoke the same immune response in healthy people, "logically, you can infer" that every year's vaccine would be effective in the smaller dose, she said.

The new study includes about 1,375 volunteers, including 1,249 Pentagon employees, with the rest coming from Walter Reed, Klotz said.

None of the volunteers fall into the high-risk categories, which include people age 65 and older, children under age 2, and people whose immune systems are vulnerable. The U.S. government recommends that all high-risk people receive full doses of flu vaccine each year.

The study began with a single flu shot. Some volunteers got full doses and some half-doses, and researchers will not know who got which dose until the study's conclusion, Klotz said.

In addition to the shot, participants also had to donate a small tube of blood.

The next phase of the study is

to draw another vial of blood from volunteers.

Researchers will compare the first vial of blood with the second to see whether the half-dose of vaccine prompted the body to produce the correct immune response, which peaks about three weeks after the initial flu shot, Klotz said.

Volunteers are also keeping a

diary of any symptoms they experience over the course of the flu season, and researchers will be in touch via e-mail at least twice over the coming months to ask participants about any illnesses.

The researchers will track the volunteers until March 31, the official end of the flu season, Klotz said.

Walter Reed's Allergy-Immuno-

nology Department, Vaccine Healthcare Centers Network, and Army Institute of Research, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Federal Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other members are coordinating the new study, Klotz said Monday at the Pentagon.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

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Brig. general among seven killed in crash

BY T.A. BADGER

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — Army officials on Tuesday identified two high-ranking officers from Fort Hood as being among the victims of Monday's helicopter crash that killed seven soldiers.

Brig. Gen. Charles B. Allen, 49, and Col. James M. Moore, 47, were aboard the UH-60 Black Hawk that struck support cables for a TV transmission tower in foggy morning weather about 30 miles northeast of Fort Hood.

Also identified were Capt. Todd T. Christmas, 26; Chief Warrant Officer 5 Douglas V. Clapp, 48; Chief Warrant Officer 2 David H. Gardner Jr., 32; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark W. Evans Jr., 27; and Spc. Richard L. Brown, 29.

All those killed were assigned

to the 4th Infantry Division based at Fort Hood. Allen was the division's assistant division commander for support, while Moore was commander of the Division Support Command. Gardner and Evans were the pilots of the Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, which went down about 7 a.m. Monday.

"It sounded like a big tree cracking, like something from Paul Bunyan," said Delia Eicke, who lives near President Bush's ranch and is used to hearing helicopters. "Then I heard the explosion."

The helicopter was flying through thick fog that obscured all but the lowest few hundred feet of the 1,800-foot-high tower, Eicke said. In addition, the red warning lights that normally mark the tower for aviators had been knocked out in a storm last week.

Court lets schools keep ban on military recruiters

PHILADELPHIA — Colleges and universities can ban military recruiters from campus without fear of losing federal money, an appeals court has ruled.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday struck down a decade-old federal law known as the Solomon Amendment, which it infringed on the free speech rights of law schools that had sought to limit on-campus recruiting in response to the military's ban on homosexuals.

Ruling in a lawsuit brought by a coalition of 25 law schools around the country, a three-judge panel said that the government's threat to yank funding amounted to compelling the schools to take part in speech they didn't agree with.

"While no doubt military lawyers are critical to the efficient operation of the armed forces, mere incantation of the need for legal talent cannot override a clear First Amendment impairment," the court wrote.

From The Associated Press

Beiji attack kills 5, injures 3 U.S. troops



STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne Sanders of the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7 inspects the burning wreckage of a truck attacked by a suicide car bomber in Beiji, Iraq, on Wednesday morning. The attack killed five Iraqis and injured 20 people, including three U.S. troops.

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

BEIJI, Iraq — A suicide bomber detonated a car bomb next to a U.S. military cargo convoy in downtown Beiji on Tuesday morning, killing five Iraqis and injuring 20 people, including three American troops.

The car exploded on Highway 1, Beiji's main thoroughfare, at 9:10 a.m., said Lt. Col. Kyle McClelland, commander of the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7, the Army unit that patrols the area around the city.

"We heard a big explosion," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Pingo, a tank driver attached to the task force's Company A, who was blocking traffic on the highway about two kilometers from the site. "We could tell by the size of it, it was rather substantial. We saw the smoke cloud."

An Iraqi traffic policeman, Dafer Salim Nejris, had stopped traffic on a side street while the convoy passed.

As the lead vehicle — a military truck called a Lightweight Mobile Tactical Vehicle, or LMTV — crossed the intersection, a Toyota at the head of the line of waiting vehicles on the side street pulled around the policeman next to the truck and lay down on the front seat.

"When the American convoy passed, he blew it up," Nejris said later through a translator from his hospital bed.

The LMTV rolled to a halt about 100 feet down the road, on fire near the driver's side door. The driver and passenger, both Air Force airmen attached to the 167th Corps Support Group in Tikrit, somehow escaped with bruises and minor shrapnel wounds.

"By the grace of God, those two [airmen] are still alive," McClelland said.

A soldier from Company C, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, attached to Task Force 1-7, who was in a nearby tank, also suf-

fered minor injuries. Medics took all three to the 67th Combat Support Hospital in Tikrit, but McClelland said all three were expected to return to duty later in the day.

McClelland and Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne Sanders, the task force's senior noncommissioned officer, piled into Humvees and raced to the site after checking on the wounded troops. They inspected the area, then met briefly with Beiji's mayor before visiting the city's single-story hospital.

Anxious Iraqis crowded the lobby and hallway, waiting for word on the fate of loved ones. Many of the injured were workers at the city's large oil refinery who had been riding to work on a bus that was in line behind the suicide bomber.

McClelland had used tanks to block off daytime traffic on Highway 1 in the city since Nov. 17, when a similar car bomb attack killed 10 Iraqis and injured 23 people, including three U.S. soldiers. Traffic hadn't been halted on side streets, however.

"We've been doing this for three weeks, and the enemy figured out a vulnerable place," McClelland said. "Obviously, a suicide bomber has one goal in life: to inflict as much pain as he can."

Beiji, a city of 125,000 residents 155 miles north of Baghdad that is home to two major power plants and an oil refinery, had been relatively peaceful until the past month. Insurgent attacks on Army patrols started large battles Nov. 9 and Nov. 14 that caused heavy damage to the city's business district.

And on Nov. 13, rebels blew up a key bridge on a highway bypassing Forward Operating Base Summerall, forcing the Army to route convoys through the heart of the city. They also planted at least 60 roadside bombs during the month, more than twice as many as in any previous month in the past year.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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135 U.S. servicemembers killed in November

BY ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fueled by fierce fighting in Fallujah and insurgents' counterattacks elsewhere in Iraq, the U.S. military death toll for November equalled the highest for any month of the war, according to casualty reports available Tuesday.

At least 135 U.S. troops died in November. That is the same number as April, when the insurance felled in Fallujah and elsewhere in the so-called Sunni Triangle where U.S. forces and their Iraqi allies lost a large measure of control.

On Nov. 8, U.S. forces launched an offensive to retake Fallujah, and they have engaged in tough fighting in other cities since. More than 50 U.S. troops have been killed in

Death toll matches worst month in Iraq

Fallujah since Nov. 8, although the Pentagon has not provided a casualty count for Fallujah for more than a week.

From the viewpoint of the United States and Iraqis who are striving to restore stability, the casualty trend since the interim Iraqi government was put in power June 28 has been troubling. Each month's death toll has been higher than the last, with the single exception of October, when it was 63.

The monthly totals grew from 42 in June to 54 in July to 65 in August and to 80 in September.

The Pentagon's official death toll for Iraq stood at 1,254 on Tuesday. That total did not include a Marine killed Monday in Anbar

province and a 1st Infantry Division soldier who died of wounds sustained in a roadside bomb attack Monday near Alauz.

On Nov. 1 the official death toll stood at 1,121.

Combat injuries increased in November due to the fierce fighting in Fallujah. Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., reported Monday that it received 32 additional battle casualties from Iraq over the past two weeks. One was in critical condition. All 32 had been treated earlier at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany.

Some of the most severe injuries — and many of the deaths — among U.S. troops in Iraq are inflicted by the insurgents' home-

made bombs, which the military calls improvised explosive devices, or IEDs.

U.S. forces have put extraordinary effort into countering the IED threat, yet it persists. U.S. troops in Fallujah reported finding nearly as many homemade explosives over the past three weeks as had been uncovered throughout Iraq in the previous four months combined.

In recent action in Fallujah, troops found at least 650 improvised explosive devices, Bryan Whitman, a spokesman for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, said Monday. That compares with 722 found throughout the country between July 1 and Oct. 31.

Since U.S. forces invaded Iraq on Nov. 8 to regain control, they have found about a dozen IED "factories" and at least 10 surface-to-air missiles capable of downing aircraft, Whitman said.

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Group probes DOD for stun gun use on detainees

BY SAM HANANEL

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amnesty International is asking the Defense Department whether the military used Taser electric stun guns on prisoners in Iraq or Afghanistan, saying it is uneasy about reports of mistreatment and abuse.

The human rights group said it made the request under the Freedom of Information Act after interviewing dozens of prisoners formerly held by U.S. forces.

"We do have credible evidence that certainly raises the question that Tasers might have been

used," Gerald Le Melle, Amnesty International USA's deputy executive director, said Monday.

Marine Capt. Dan McSweeney, a spokesman for the Joint Directorate for Non-Lethal Weapons, said that the Army, and to a limited extent, the Marine Corps, acquired Tasers earlier in 2004.

Based on research and available data, Pentagon officials "have determined that [the use of Tasers are appropriate]," McSweeney said. "They are fielded and currently being used."

But McSweeney said he could not comment on Amnesty's request, because the directorate is

responsible for the development of nonlethal weapons, but not how they are used once fielded.

"That would be a question for the services to address, or the units" that use the Tasers, McSweeney said in a Tuesday telephone interview.

Amnesty has long expressed misgivings about the safety of Tasers and whether they are open to abuse because they can inflict severe pain without leaving marks. The group has urged law enforcement agencies to suspend the use of all electroshock weapons pending the outcome of a vigorous independent inquiry into whether the weapons pose health risks.

Amnesty's request concerning prisoners seeks information on computer chips stored inside Taser guns that record the date, time and duration of each electric shock administered.

The group also is requesting information about deaths that might have occurred after a Taser was used, as well as training materials and guidelines for how soldiers are to use the weapons.

Device's use growing

From Korean Air flight crews to U.S. police and corrections officers, orders for stun guns made by Taser International Inc., are pouring in.

The Scottsdale, Ariz., company even recently launched an ad campaign urging private citizens to arm themselves with the weapons, which temporarily paralyze people with 50,000 volts.

In a report released Tuesday, Amnesty International says stun guns are being abused by police and wants more scientific study done to determine whether the devices are safe.

Amnesty says at least 74 people have died in the United States and Canada in the past four years after being shocked with Tasers.

The group also says officers have turned stun guns on the men-



Taser International employee Lucy Lazarova assembles the law enforcement version of the popular stun gun at the company's headquarters in Scottsdale, Ariz. The company's stock has soared but there are growing concerns about whether the stun guns are truly as non-lethal as advertised.

tally disturbed, children and the elderly.

"Not only do we not know the impact of these weapons on human beings under various conditions, we are also concerned about the gratuitous use of these weapons," said Le Melle.

Amnesty worried that "the deployment of Tasers, rather than minimizing the use of force, may dangerously extend the boundaries of what are considered 'acceptable' levels of force."

Taser officials bill the guns, which shoot two barbed darts whose current can penetrate up to two inches of clothing, as among the safest ways of subduing violent people in high-risk situations.

Tasers have a range of up to 21 feet and can also shock on contact, like a cattle prod.

A Department of Defense-ordered study cited by Taser company officials in defending their technology does, however, also recommend more research on how Tasers affect sensitive or intoxicated people.

The study, done by an Air Force laboratory for the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate at Quantico, Va., found that when used as intended, Tasers are safe. But it also said that, although uncommon, some severe unintended effects might occur after a shock. The military has not released the entire study, only an abstract.

Taser International contends its products reduce injuries and save lives by giving police an alternative to lethal force.

The company says it has documented 600 cases of lives saved with Taser devices and that it has not settled or lost any lawsuits involving deaths or injuries related to the guns.

"Fact is ... this thing has been around for 30 years, never ever has a Taser been listed as the primary cause of death," said Smith, the company chairman.

AP writer Anabelle Garay in Phoenix and Stars and Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess in the Pentagon contributed to this report.

Shocking force

Taser International Inc., the maker of stun weapons, has watched its stock soar amidst growing concerns about whether the weapons are as nonlethal as advertised. In a report released Tuesday, Amnesty International says stun guns are being abused by police.

A Taser's electrical current overrides the central nervous system for five seconds, temporarily paralyzing targets

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SOURCES: Amnesty International; Taser International

Use of force incidents

At the Orange County, Fla., Sheriff's Office, Tasers were the most prevalent force option, constituting 68 percent of all use-of-force incidents in 2002.



ID tags ejected like confetti when fired; printed with the serial number

Probes hook wires to target's skin or clothing

White House rejects Red Cross claims of abuse at Gitmo

BY ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS

The Associated Press

GENEVA — The international Red Cross said Tuesday that U.S. officials have failed to address concerns about some significant problems in the treatment of terror suspects detained at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

But the neutral International Committee of the Red Cross, which is the only independent monitor allowed to visit the facility, refused "to publicly confirm or deny" whether details in a New York Times article about torture allegations were from its reports to U.S. officials setting out its findings during Guantanamo visits.

A Pentagon spokesman in Washington, however, confirmed that Red Cross officials have "made their view known" that the indefinite detention of terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, amounts to torture.

But the Bush administration rejected the ICRC accusations that detainees were in any way abused at Guantanamo.

"We strongly disagree with any characterization that suggests a way detainees are being treated is inconsistent with the policies the president has outlined," said White House press secretary Scott McClellan on an Air Force One flight from Washington to Ottawa, Canada.

McClellan insisted that Guantanamo detainees "were being treated humanely," though he pointed out "the combatants that were picked up on the battlefield" were seeking to harm the United States.

The Times said the ICRC has determined the U.S. military used psychological and physical coercion "tantamount to torture."

It said international Red Cross delegates found during a June visit to Guantanamo that U.S. authorities had devised a refined system to break the will of the prisoners, using humiliation, solitary confinement, temperature extremes and force positions.

Human rights campaigners said they weren't surprised by the allegations after

the leaking of a ICRC report last May describing mistreatment of U.S. prisoners in Iraq.

The international Red Cross also found that some doctors were telling interrogators about prisoners' weaknesses in "a flagrant violation of medical ethics."

"We have said, including publicly, that there are significant problems regarding the conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees in Guantanamo that still have not been addressed by U.S. authorities," said Antonella Notari, chief spokeswoman for the ICRC.

"We continue our discussions with the U.S. authorities in this regard," she added, but said the agency was sticking to its policy of discussing the details of its findings with U.S. officials, because it found the confidential approach achieved the best results.

An agency statement said its policy of confidentiality "has made it possible for the ICRC to have repeated and regular access to those held at Guantanamo Bay and to speak with them in private."

Notari said it was possible that ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger would go to Washington soon to meet with administration officials.

"When the international Red Cross raises issues, we work to address those issues," McClellan said, but he sidestepped questions about whether the ICRC's findings had prompted further study by the administration or discussions with the Red Cross.

The ICRC has been visiting Guantanamo regularly since early 2002.

The ICRC uses its exchanges with governments to make clear its concerns and recommendations regarding the situation in places of detention and to demand changes when necessary," the agency added.

"Guantanamo Bay is no exception." Notari said the ICRC saw as a "useful step" the recent creation of the Office of Detainee Affairs in the U.S. Department of Defense. The office has provided a forum in which issues relating to Guantanamo Bay can be discussed "in a more timely and systematic manner."

Associated Press writer Scott Lindwall contributed to this report.

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IN THE STATES

Ridge resigns homeland security position

BY KATHERINE PFLEGER
SHRADER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge resigned Tuesday, saying he was confident the United States is significantly safer than before the 2001 terrorist strikes.

Ridge, who has warned that the country may face increased terror risks around the holidays and the Jan. 20 presidential inauguration, said he will remain on the job through Feb. 1.

As the nation's first chief of the new Department of Homeland Security, Ridge presided over a collection of 22 disparate federal agencies and 180,000 employees. He acknowledged he could not prove the enormously expensive and complex security measures put in

place since 2001 have foiled any terrorist attacks inside the United States but said he was certain America was safer.

"I am confident that the terrorists are aware that from the curb to the cockpit we've got additional security measures that didn't exist a couple years ago, that from port to port we do things differently with maritime security,"

Ridge said.

Among those mentioned as possible candidates for Ridge's replacement are Bernard Kerik, interim Minister of the Interior for Iraq and former New York City police commissioner; former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Joe Albaugh; Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt

and White House homeland security adviser Fran Townsend. Asa Hutchinson, undersecretary for border and transportation security in the Homeland Security Department, is also believed to be interested in the job.

Ridge defended the department's efforts to warn the public of possible terror threats.

"It's in our best long-term inter-

est to share more information about the threat to America rather than less," Ridge said.

Ridge, 59, has privately expressed his interest in moving out of the time-consuming, stressful post. However, those who know him said his loyalty to Bush was always a factor to consider.

Associated Press writer Ted Bridis contributed to this report.



Ridge

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH
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NAACP postBY WILEY HALL
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Saying he needs a break, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume announced Tuesday that he's stepping down as the head of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights group.

The organization's legal counsel, Dennis Hayes, will serve as interim president while a national search is conducted.

Mfume, 56, has been president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People since 1996. Before that, he was a Democratic congressman from Maryland for nine years. He inherited an organization tarnished by scandal and burdened by a \$3.2 million debt and is credited with steering it into an era of stability and growth with corporate-style management techniques, including cost-saving layoffs.

"In my heart of hearts, I know the job has been done, and I step aside willingly," he said.

Last month, the organization's chairman, Julian Bond, announced that its tax-exempt status is under review by the IRS in an investigation he contends stems from a speech he gave in July at the NAACP's annual convention that criticized President Bush.



Mfume

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December 25 from 1500 to 2000

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December 16

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December 25 from 2100 to 0200

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December 26 from 1030 to 1330

Celebrate this special day with prize giveaways all day and chances to receive up to 50 percent off your tab. Enjoy our Day-After Christmas brunch with a mouth-watering buffet including Honey Glazed Ham, Roast Beef, Home-Baked Macaroni and Cheese and more for \$12.95 Adult, \$6.95 Child 12 years of age and under. At 1800 enjoy a Kernel Popcorn performance.

CPO Club 243-5606

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Come in for our Prime Rib Buffet and receive free soft drinks, coffee or tea.

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at 1200 for your chance to take home grand prizes of \$2,500, \$5,000 or \$10,000 and a guaranteed \$1,000 giveaway for the last game. Can't wait till the weekend? Then join us at the CPO Club every Tuesday & Thursday at 1800

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Investigators continue Tuesday to inspect the wreckage of a jet that crashed Sunday, killing NBC sports executive Dick Ebersol's youngest son and two other people, at Colorado's Montrose Regional Airport.

Body matching NBC executive's son found among jet wreckage

BY JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

MONTROSE, Colo. — Investigators probing what caused a jet to crash during takeoff want to know whether it was de-iced before it went down, killing NBC sports executive Dick Ebersol's youngest son and two other people, a federal official said Tuesday.

They have not ruled out other possible factors.

"We do want to look at de-icing because of the weather conditions but we're not going to just focus on one possibility," Ellen Engleman Connors, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, told CBS' "The Early Show."

The plane carrying Ebersol and two of his sons crashed Sunday while taking off from the airport outside this small town 185 miles southwest of Denver.

A snowstorm had moved through the area and there was light snow and fog at the time of takeoff.

Digging through the charred wreckage, investigators on Mon-

day found what is believed to be the body of 14-year-old Edward Ebersol, youngest son of Ebersol, 57, and his wife, "Kate and Al" star Susan Saint James.

Ebersol and the couple's oldest son, Charles, and the plane's co-pilot remain hospitalized and are expected to recover. Saint James and the middle Ebersol son, 18-year-old Willie, were not on the flight.

The pilot, 50-year-old Luis Alberto Polanco Espallail of the Dominican Republic, and flight attendant Warren T. Richardson III, 36, of Coral Gables, Fla., were also killed. The co-pilot was in critical condition at a burn unit in Denver.

Expallail had a valid Dominican pilot's license, which he first obtained in 1977 and renewed as recently as 2000, said Francis Mesa, a spokesman for Dominican Civil Aeronautics.

Mesa said Espallail had worked as a private pilot for individuals and companies in the Dominican.

The plane's voice recorder was recovered Monday. The jet did not have a flight data recorder.

Murder charges filed in deaths of 6 hunters

BY ROBERT IMRIE
The Associated Press

HAYWARD, Wis. — A Himong immigrant accused of fatally shooting six deer hunters in the woods of northern Wisconsin appeared in a makeshift courtroom Tuesday, a day after charges were filed against him.

During a brief five-minute hearing held in a basement room at the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department, Chai Vang, 36, of St. Paul, Minn., waived his right to a preliminary hearing within 10 days, and one was set instead for Dec. 29.

Defense attorney Steven Kohn said Vang was mentally competent to understand the charges against him and participate in proceedings in the case.

He was charged in Sawyer County Circuit Court with six counts of murder, each carrying a life prison term, and two counts of attempted murder. Wisconsin does not have a death penalty.

The criminal complaint filed Monday said the hunters managed to shoot back once or twice after the Nov. 21 confrontation with Vang about trespassing on private land.

Two survivors told investigators that no one in their group pointed a gun at Vang before he opened fire, according to the complaint. Four victims were shot in the back.

Bond remained at \$2.5 million, but Kohn said he reserved the right to address that issue later.

According to the complaint, Vang said that he opened fire after the others took a shot at him first and berated him with racial slurs. He allegedly told investigators he shot some of the victims because he thought they were going for guns or had guns, and that he did not shoot at others although he could see they were armed. Vang also told investigators he saw one of the hunters still standing, yelled "You're not dead yet?," fired a shot and ran. He had

an empty rifle when arrested several hours later.

The criminal complaint also said Vang told investigators that the victims fired at him twice — including the first shot when he was walking away after being told he was trespassing.

Two of the survivors, however, told authorities Vang fired the first shot.

"Most of us are just as confused and lost and stunned as we were when we first heard about it," the Rev. Jim Powers told mourners at a funeral service for Jessica Willets, 27. "We need to work through this and we need to help others work through it."

At another church, mourners paid their respects to Dennis Drew, 55, a father of three who grew up on a dairy farm, served in Vietnam and returned to raise his family.

Those killed also included Robert Crotteau, 42, the owner of the land where the shooting happened, his son Joey Crotteau, 20, Al Laski, 43, and Mark Roidt, 28, all from the Rice Lake area.

Chicago mayor's son enlists in Army

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Mayor Richard Daley's 29-year-old son has enlisted in the Army and soon will report for duty in the airborne infantry.

"It's been in the back of my mind for some time," Patrick Daley told the Chicago Sun-Times in Tuesday's editions. "I left West Point during my freshman year when I was 18 years old and always remembered their motto, 'Duty, Honor and Country.' But I was so young and not really old enough to understand what it really meant. But I know now."

Daley finished college at the University of Illinois and got a master's degree in business from the University of Chicago in June. He could have pursued lucrative job offers, but he said the Sept. 11 attacks played a role in his decision to enlist. "Dad is very supportive and mom is doing just what moth-

ers are supposed to do, worrying about her son," he said.

The mayor said Tuesday that he never tried to talk his son out of the move. His only advice: Stand by your decision.

"I'm very proud of the decision he made," he said. "He believes that [the military] is part of public service."

Asked about his own feelings toward the war in Iraq, the Democratic mayor said: "You stand by the president; you stand by the men and women of the military."

The younger Daley is starting as an ordinary enlisted man.

Patrick Daley

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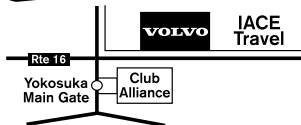
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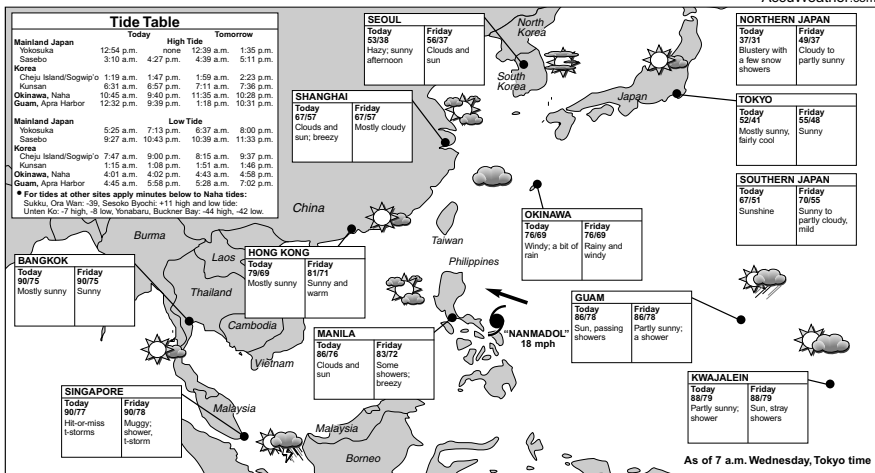
Hours: Tues-Sat 9:30am - 6pm



The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
 Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine,
 high 64, low 55.
 Sunday: Rain,
 high 67, low 46.

KADENA
 Saturday: Thundershowers,
 high 78, low 71.
 Sunday: Showers,
 high 76, low 63.

SEoul
 Saturday: Showers,
 high 51, low 28.
 Sunday: Partly sunny,
 high 42, low 27.

MANILA
 Saturday: Showers,
 high 86, low 74.
 Sunday: Partly sunny,
 high 88, low 74.

HAGATNA
 Saturday: Partly sunny,
 high 88, low 78.
 Sunday: Showers,
 high 86, low 78.

Tuesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	37/18	Los Angeles	67/40
Amarillo	43/20	Little Rock	51/32
Anchorage	36/26	Louisville	50/40
Asheville	55/46	Miami	82/67
Baltimore	54/44	Milwaukee	39/26
Birmingham	65/41	Nashville	56/39
Bismarck	44/18	New York	52/45
Boise	33/23	Omaha	36/19
Boston	49/39	Orlando	84/60
Brownsville	57/45	Philadelphia	53/44
Buffalo	46/39	Phoenix	62/36
Burlington	44/35	Pittsburgh	51/41
Charleston, SC	70/57	Portland, OR	46/38
Charlotte	58/48	Portland, ME	43/34
Cleveland	49/39	Salt Lake City	27/16
Columbus, OH	49/40	St. Louis	43/30
Duluth	36/16	San Antonio	52/30
El Paso	45/24	San Diego	63/47
Hartford	49/36	San Juan	84/72
Helena	36/14	Tampa	82/64
Indianapolis	46/34	Tulsa	39/27
Jacksonville	81/69	Washington	55/43
Kansas City	34/24	Wichita	35/24

Thursday, December 02



U.S. Extended Forecast

Flurries and light snow will fall from western New York into New England Thursday as cold air settles in behind a low pressure system departing eastern Canada. Another system moving across Canada just north of Montana will send some flurries or light snow into the northern Rockies, while its associated cold front will spread showers across western Washington. Meanwhile, high pressure will take control of much of the South and Southwest, providing dry and mainly sunny weather. As the Canadian system enters the Great Lakes region Friday, flurries and light snow will fall across Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. High pressure across the central and southern Rockies will keep the region dry for the start of the weekend.

Thursday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	79/60	Kaduna	51/47
Beijing	45/37	Kansan AB	76/69
Camp Casey	55/35	Kunshan AB	58/43
Christchurch	71/44	Kwajalein	88/79
Diego Garcia	86/78	Manila	86/76
Hagatna	86/78	Masawa AB	41/29
Hanoi	80/65	Osan	56/38
Jacksonville	79/69	Perth	77/51
Hong Kong	84/73	Pusan	58/48

Thursday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	92/75	Budapest	51/43
Athens	63/54	Buenos Aires	90/70
Auckland	77/57	Cairo	74/53
Baghdad	60/38	Cancun	81/68
Barbados	84/69	Cape Town	76/60
Barcelona	56/42	Geneva	46/40
Berlin	56/42	Isntabul	60/48
Bermuda	75/64	Jerusalem	61/43
Brussels	42/31	Johnneshburg	62/62



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Wolf hunts resume

AK FAIRBANKS — State officials have begun issuing permits for aerial hunters to kill wolves in parts of Alaska in an effort to boost moose and caribou populations.

The first pilot-gunner teams killed four wolves after the Alaska Department of Fish and Game began issuing the permits.

Officials want to cull about 500 wolves in various parts of the state to control their numbers this winter. Alaska's wolf population is estimated at 8,000 to 11,000 and hunters and trappers kill an average of 1,500 a year, officials said.

Firefighter accused

FL JACKSONVILLE — A firefighter was charged with plotting to entrap his chief in a phony rape scheme so his friend could replace him, officials said.

Edward Colleton, 38, was charged with conspiring to commit official misconduct and criminal solicitation. He was jailed on a \$250,000 bail.

Police said Colleton tried to convince a former fire department employee to entice District Fire Chief Alonzo McQueen to have sex with her, then report she was raped.

The woman instead revealed the plot to police.

Prison party restricted

NH CONCORD — There will be no family holiday party this year for prison inmates who don't have young children.

In the past, inmates at some prisons were allowed to invite family members for a cold-cut buffet, a gift exchange and photos with Santa.

Department of Corrections Commissioner Stephen Curry has rejected parties this year to inmates with children younger than 18.

Corrections spokesman Jeff Lyons said the issue is money.

ACLU supports Web site

VA RICHMOND — The American Civil Liberties Union filed court papers in support of a New York man who runs a Web site critical of the Rev. Jerry Falwell.

The Virginia and national ACLU filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the Richmond-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in support of Christopher Lamparello, who runs the Web site fallwell.com.

Falwell, a religious broadcaster based in Lynchburg, sued Lamparello last year in federal court in Alexandria, arguing that Lamparello violated federal trademark law by using a common misspelling of Falwell's name as a domain name.

U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton ruled in favor of Falwell, saying the domain name was "nearly identical" to the registered trademark "Jerry Falwell" name and was likely to confuse Web surfers.

'Reverse 911' purchased

TX AUSTIN — Emergency personnel in Central Texas counties will soon be able to call and notify residents of an emergency.

Using a \$200,000 grant from Homeland Security Department, the Capital Area Council of Govern-

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ments has bought computer equipment and phone lines for a system often called "reverse 911" that allows emergency personnel to call residents and play a recorded message with instructions in the event of an emergency.

Austin and Round Rock already have the system, which does not ring cell phones.

Council employees said they hope to have the system operational within 12 weeks in Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Lee and Llano counties.

Restaurateurs charged

NY NEW YORK — Six restaurant operators — including the owner of a pricey Italian restaurant in Manhattan — have been charged with offering bribes to agents posing as health inspectors, authorities said.

Campagnola Restaurant on First Avenue, where a meal can cost up to \$80 per person, was among the restaurants cited in the Department of Investigation sting. The restaurant's owner, Salvatore Lombardi, 43, allegedly offered agents \$250 to overlook violations including uncovered meat dripping blood onto the floor, the DOI said.

He and the owners of five other establishments in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens had been arraigned on charges of felony brib-

ery and could face up to seven years in prison if convicted, said Emily Gest, a DOI spokeswoman.

The DOI said the largest bribe offered was at Everfresh Joy, where an agent was allegedly offered \$600 after finding meat thawing among dirty dishes in a sink.

Man kills wife, self

FL LAKELAND — A man wife, then shot himself in the head in front of his three young daughters and sheriff's deputies.

Raymond Gans, 27, died a day after turning the gun on himself. The shooting occurred at a roadblock as the deputies approached a van where Gans sat with 3-year-old twins Jordyn and Meikayala, and 1-year-old Bailey.

Gans was trying to flee after killing his wife, authorities said.

The body of Jennifer Jill Gans, 25, was found in a box of her belongings she had tried to retrieve from the home of Raymond Gans' parents, where he had been staying.

Youths arrested

PA READING — Some juveniles believe they are members of an international gang have been arrested for minor offenses in Reading, police Chief Charles R. Broad said, leading to concern that they may commit more serious crimes.

Recent reports of gunshots near Reading High School and an increase in after-school fights there may be linked to the gang known as Mara Salvatrucha, Broad said. He added that gangs that have been around Reading for a longer time commit crimes recklessly in an effort to prove themselves, but he said Mara Salvatrucha is more organized.

Chicks take flight

AZ GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK — Two California condor chicks that were hatched in the wild have successfully taken their inaugural flights, officials said.

This is the second straight year that California condors have hatched and flown since the birds were reintroduced into the wild in Arizona.

Condors, the largest birds in North America with a wingspan of about 9 feet, were driven to near extinction in the 1980s.

Kentucky 'unbrided'

KY SIMPSONVILLE — "Kentucky: Unbrided Spirit" is the state's new name brand.

It was selected from four finalists in Gov. Ernie Fletcher's quest to give the state a fresher marketing slogan. The brand will be seen on government signs, stationery, souvenirs and state advertising.

Fletcher said after the announcement the new slogan was a good choice and one that he voted for personally.

Last month, the administration presented the public with four brand finalists. They were: "Kentucky: Unbrided Spirit," "Kentucky: Limitless," "Kentucky: Where Legends Are Born" and "Kentucky: Make History."

Kentucky residents and nonresidents were asked to vote on the state's new image.



Not in the Christmas cheer

Mall Santa Joe Kutnyak encounters a crying 6-month-old Madysyn Templeton at Westfield Shoppingtown in Vancouver, Wash.



Snow pie in the face

Justin Randall, 9, is hit with a pile of snow by Dee Dee Lee while taking part in a snowball fight in Burlington, Iowa.



It's a leaf party!

Children play with leaves in Fort Smith, Ark. From left are J'Lisa Thompson, 10, Brianna Thompson, 6, Maggie West, 8, and Ariel Mosley, 4.



Sunset ice skating

People skate on an ice rink as the Ferry Building stands in the background at dusk in downtown San Francisco.



Competitive surfing Sunny Garcia of Hawaii shreds the lip to win the Vans Hawaiian Pro in Haleiwa, Hawaii.



Animated school spirit Shealena West cheers on the Alaska-Anchorage basketball team during a Great Alaska Shootout game against Furman in Anchorage, Alaska.



Hold on! Diego Brisenor rides a plastic skimmer down a snow-covered hill in Cloudcroft, N.M.



A gloomy ride home A motorist drives down Sheep Creek Road in Phelan, Calif., as clouds cover a full moon. Mother Nature slowed traffic in the Phelan and Wrightwood area, as well as the nearby Interstate 15 through the Cajon Pass.

Elevator death

NY NEW YORK — A 76-year-old man about to leave for a vacation in the Caribbean died when he fell down an elevator shaft in his Manhattan apartment building, police said.

Edward Helig and his wife were riding the building's freight elevator with their luggage when the elevator stalled between the 14th and 15th floors at about 3 p.m. Sunday, police said.

Helig tried to step out onto the 14th floor but slipped into the shaft instead.

It appeared the elevator stalled because the safety gate had not been closed properly, she said.

Home blast injures 2

TX SAN ANTONIO — An explosion at a Central Texas home has injured two people, authorities say.

The victims were airlifted from the New Braunfels area to Brooke Army Medical Center following the blast. They sustained second- and third-degree burns over 30 percent to 50 percent of their bodies. Their names have not been released.

Neighbors had reported smelling propane in the area recently. New Braunfels Fire Department battalion chief Frank Gonzales told the online edition of the San Antonio Express-News.

Cargo trains collide

FL RICHLAND — Two cargo trains collided head-on in west-central Florida, killing one person and injuring three others, authorities said.

About 10 cars derailed after the collision in Richland, about 25 miles northeast of Tampa, said Kevin Doll, a spokesman for the Pasco County Sheriff's office.

Officials did not immediately know what caused the accident.

Kids enforce speed limit

MO LEE'S SUMMIT — Police officer Jim Dotson is enlisting the help of Prairie View Elementary School students to catch people driving over the speed limit. Students at the suburban Kansas City school use radar guns on oncoming traffic to catch speeders. State and local traffic safety officials say they don't know of any similar programs.

Stealing from the poor

PA ALLENTOWN — A gun-wielding robber swiped a Salvation Army kettle from the front of a supermarket, police said.

Jerlene Howard said that she was ringing her bell to summon shoppers to her kettle in front of Ahart's Market when a man, wearing a scarf over his face, approached with something other than charity on his mind.

"He pulled up in a burgundy car and got out and told me to give him the kettle," Howard said. He "had a gun and he told me not to say anything," she said.

Howard said her kettle was "kind of heavy," but she didn't know exactly how much money was inside.

Ammonia spill at plant

IA WEST LIBERTY — Fumes from an ammonia spill at an eastern Iowa meat-processing plant Sunday forced the evacuation of a three-block area surrounding the plant and made at least five residents ill.

Fire Chief Curt Newcomb said residents from around the West Liberty Foods plant were taken to an Iowa City hospital, but he did not know the severity of the injuries.

The spill at the plant, which employs more than 1,100 workers, was blamed on a mechanical failure in a refrigeration unit, according to a statement from Gerald Lessard, vice president of operations.

The failure was repaired and no meat products were affected, the statement said.

Deportation confusion

OR PORTLAND — A 27-year-old woman from South Africa, who was ordered deported after her American husband died in a car crash, is voluntarily returning to her country to tend to her sick father, further confusing an already entangled immigration battle.

Carla Arabella Freeman was handcuffed, shackled and ordered deported at her immigration hearing in Portland in May, after immigration authorities discovered that she had been married to her husband for only 11 months.

Under immigration law, foreign nationals who are married to U.S. citizens for less than two years automatically lose their right to permanent residence upon their spouses' death.

At least 25 others — almost all widows — are currently embroiled in similar deportation proceedings.

Domestic violence laws

NC RALEIGH — Victims of domestic violence will have more protection from the courts when sweeping changes to state law take effect. New domestic violence provisions create a new crime of assault by strangulation, now a felony. It used to be a misdemeanor. The strangulation offense could bring up to two years in prison for an offender, potentially preventing more attacks in the same relationship, activists said.

Drive-by kills 7-year-old

MI DETROIT — A drive-by gunman fired into a house, killing a 7-year-old girl who was sitting on a couch, police said.

A 38-year-old man was arrested after the shooting.

Family members identified the victim as Diva White. "She never had a chance to enjoy life or spread the love that I know she was going to spread to everyone," said her uncle, Immanuel Daniels.

The shooting grew out of a dispute of some kind, police said.

The girl's grandmother was home at the time; her mother was gone but returned home later.

Police say the suspect told a friend that he had carried out a drive-by shooting and the friend called police, leading to the arrest. Charges were expected to be filed.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 417-500) is published daily (except Christmas and New Year's Day) and \$1 Sunday (except Christmas and New Year's Day) and \$1 Sunday (except Christmas and New Year's Day). Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, Calif. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO 96337-5002.
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Don't 'bribe' Navy officers

The Navy's recent senior surface warfare officer critical skills retention bonus is being used to entice surface warfare officers to fill critical billets at sea and overseas. The Navy is going in the wrong direction on keeping top-quality officers in senior leadership positions at sea.

The billets listed seem to include the majority of the sea duty billets for the 0-5/0-6 surface warfare officers. It would benefit the Navy more to look at other ways to entice senior officers to command at sea and make this duty more desirable, rather than trying to "bribe" them with financial incentives and bonuses.

The Navy should look at other factors such as morale, command climate and work environment issues, which I believe are a major factor in why few senior officers decline command at sea.

One thing that makes the Navy different from the civilian job market is that we are serving our country and not necessarily just working for a paycheck. Navy leaders today are running the Navy like a corporation or as just another Fortune 500 company instead of viewing naval service as a unique and special calling that, at times, requires sacrifice.

Financial incentives and bonuses will not solve the problem of making leadership at sea a desirable goal. Improving morale and looking for the reasons why the Navy can't fill senior SWO command billets at sea is the answer to solving these manning problems.

Bernard Michael Burawski

U.S. Navy retired
Altamonte Springs, Fla.

Reasons for lock down

In "Locked down in Kuwait" (Nov. 27), the letter writer questions the abilities of multinational intelligence agencies and second-guesses his command's decision to keep him on post in Kuwait.

I am currently in Iraq and we, too, have contractors working with us. When we have actionable intelligence or historical data showing us that we need to close the base or wear our protective gear, we do so. The contractors do not fall under the military chain of command. Some follow suit, some do not, it's their call.

The writer's chain of command is acting on information it has to keep him safe and reduce the possibility of his getting hurt, killed or kidnapped. Just because he is not in Fallujah or Mosul does not mean that there are not real threats.

If his contractor friend is willing to ignore the direction of the military and risk her life for a cheeseburger, then I would hope she has a large life insurance policy.

I offer an open invitation for the letter

Tell us what you think

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writer to visit my camp in central Iraq. Our intel people are doing a great job. It wouldn't take my S-2 more than five minutes to show the letter writer why we are concerned about terrorist activities in that part of the theater or his, for that matter.

It's an atrocity that the letter writer can't go to McDonald's on any given night, but hey, there's always Pizza Hut and Starbucks at the Doha post exchange. If those won't do, I'll share my country captain chicken.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Chris Chance

Camp Taji, Iraq

What's the 'spin' on wounded?

The Nov. 25 article "Principi: VA will look out for the 'wounded heroes'" concerning the Veterans Affairs chief's visit to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, stated the Landstuhl RMC has treated 20,802 troops for injuries received in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

In the same edition (Korea edition only in the Pacific), a separate article, "U.S. injured tops 9,000," quoting the Pentagon, stated 9,326 U.S. troops have been wounded in Iraq since the force's lead invasion in Iraq in March 2003. These two figures imply 11,476 U.S. troops have received injuries in Operation Enduring Freedom. Is the article on the number of wounded in Iraq a spin? If so, who is being spun?

Larry Simank

Amberg, Germany

Ukrainians lead the way

Seems that the world's best democracy is not found in my country, America, anymore. The example of a true democracy is happening before our eyes in Ukraine.

After allegations of a fixed election, the Ukrainian people have intensified their protests by surrounding the presidential buildings and calling for an investigation

while we as Americans just continue business as usual after the second election in four years has come and gone amid allegations of fraud and voter suppression in numerous states.

We should be setting the example to the world, but Ukraine has beaten us to the punch. Wake up, America, our democracy is falling apart each and every day that goes by without a meaningful fight to restore some legitimacy to our elected president.

Gabriel Rodriguez
Yokohama, Japan

Not fighting for NBA

This letter is in response to the Nov. 25 letter "Pro athletes go too far." I found it incredibly insulting that the writer would close his letter by asking, "Is this what we are fighting for in Iraq?"

The writer was writing from England, therefore he is not fighting in Iraq. The fact that the National Basketball Association, National Football League, National Hockey League or any other sports organization is associated with this fight is ignorant.

The writer, like a lot of other people, used this forum to give their opinions validity. If the writer has served, or is being deployed down here to serve, then maybe he needs to rethink what it is he is going to be fighting for.

I and the other thousands of soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines are fighting to keep terrorists out of America, not so a guy can make \$5 million a year playing a game.

Sgt. Nick Stansberry

Tikrit, Iraq

Santa commercial 'absurd'

I am appalled at the Santa commercial that encourages e-mail letters to Santa because too many trees are being cut down when many letters are sent to Santa.

I would love to know whose bright idea it was to have this commercial put on the air.

Writing a letter to Santa is a Christmas tradition that has been around for years. I doubt that the letters sent to Santa are harming our environment. This is a great way to celebrate with your child. The parent can see the child's handwriting, teach etiquette and the proper way to write and address a letter.

This is ridiculous that the government and Stars and Stripes have decided that they know better and need to use American Forces Network to spread this concept. Please reconsider and take this absurd commercial off the air.

Ruth Hale

Mainz-Kastel, Germany

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury

LISTEN UP EVERYONE.
THE PRESIDENT IS
CONSIDERING
ANNOUNCING A NEW
CABINET-LEVEL POST...
IN THE GOVERNMENT...

...SO TO FERRET OUT ANY-
ONE WHO DISRESSES WITH
HIM ABOUT ANYTHING
ANNOUNCING A NEW
CABINET-LEVEL POST...

...SECRETARY OF
STATE
AFFAIRS!

GREAT
IDEA!
LOVE IT!
SUPER!

OKAY AND
I ONLY
THOUGHT
IT WAS
"HUN?"



OPINION

Anchor's move makes things Rather clear

As any professor of journalism will tell you, television was once expected to put newspapers out of business. That didn't happen (for which I am truly thankful), but it certainly thinned the herd of afternoon papers.

Philip Terzian



its influence palpable.

It's two generations later, and we're wrestling with the effects of cable television and the Internet. Both were expected to supplant newspapers and, quite possibly, the then-Big Three TV networks: NBC, CBS and ABC. But that hasn't happened, either.

So life goes on. But it cannot be said that cable and the Internet have failed to influence the market. Television was first seen as a revolutionary tool for education; few anticipated its effect on politics, similar cable television and the Internet have sparked a revolution in journalism that no one expected. And if you don't believe me, ask Dan Rather.

Last week Rather announced that he will step down as anchorman of the "CBS Evening News" in March, having served as the network's principal news reader since 1981. (He will continue to be a correspon-

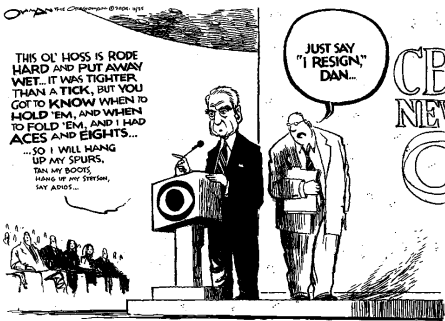
dent for the popular "60 Minutes.") In the normal course of things, a 73-year-old's decision to quit a job is not entirely unexpected. But I am willing to bet that the decision was not his.

Dan Rather has long been accused of political bias, and the revelation that a sensation of "60 Minutes" story about George W. Bush's National Guard service was based on falsified evidence was probably one upshot too many for the network brass. Rather will be on his way to retirement (or past it) from anchorman when an independent inquiry into the disaster releases its findings.

There isn't enough space here to enter the argument about whether CBS, ABC and NBC — and most "mainstream" media in America — lean toward the left. My own view is that the evidence for it is substantial, and the explanation is simple: For whatever reason, journalism attracts more people on the left than on the right, and its institutional watchwords and biases are tilted accordingly.

But the fact is that Dan Rather has tended to aggravate right-wing nerves more consistently than his colleagues at ABC (Peter Jennings) and NBC (Tom Brokaw), and when that "60 Minutes" story was broadcast, the dam finally burst. Cable TV (especially Fox and MSNBC) and the Internet, in particular, exploded with dissenting views, pointed questions, contrary evidence and credible allegations of fraud.

In the good old days, such anger and frustration would have been largely impotent, widely scattered and safely ignored by CBS. No longer. The clamor on the Internet soon migrated to cable TV and grew so insistent that the "mainstream" press could no longer afford to ignore the noise.



If this were 1969, and not 2004, CBS might have reacted as it did when its famous documentary, "The Selling of the Pentagon," was criticized for deception and multiple errors. Citing a combination of the First Amendment, the people's right to know and professional self-regard, CBS airily dismissed its detractors and stood by its story. But that was 35 years ago. Jonathan Klein, a former vice president of CBS News (and the new president of CNN), derided bloggers as guys in their pajamas surfing the Net, and Rather cited "partisan" critics, adding that "if any

definitive evidence to the contrary of our story is found, we will report it." Finally, they did, sort of — two weeks after everyone else had done so.

As far as journalism is concerned, this is not to say that cable TV and the Internet are unmixed blessings. But the mortification of CBS, and Dan Rather's timely retirement from anchorman, affirm a familiar truth: Competition pushes journalism — like any product — to higher standards.

Philip Terzian, The Providence (R.I.) Journal's associate editor, writes a column from Washington.

Senator knows most Floridians side with Scouts

In their collective group-therapy sessions, Democrats should pay attention to how their only major officeholder in the nation's key battleground state is trying to survive politically.

Peter A. Brown



Sen. Bill Nelson, the sole statewide-elected Democrat in Florida, has decided that one way to get re-elected in 2006 is to side with the Boy Scouts against gay and the American Civil Liberties Union. Seems an obvious choice to me, but one assumes in Democratic circles it has caused much angst. However, Nelson is just learning from the master: William Jefferson Clinton, who had the genius to confront Democratic interest groups when they stood between him and the middle class — and victory at the polls.

These are many of the folks who fret about the Bush economy and worry about the war in Iraq or think the country is on the wrong track, but don't think Democrats share their values. That's why George W. Bush is in the White House and the Republicans control Congress.

Nelson understands that millions of Americans think the Democrats often hang with the wrong crowd and that, in the inevitable political conflicts, the party has made poor choices because of those friendships. He realizes the best way to dissuade voters of that notion, at least in his case, is to publicly embrace a sworn enemy of those very same interest groups.

That's why Nelson is trying to help the Scouts resist efforts by the lousy left to restrict the group's ability to function.

And let's not be overly cynical here. The

political benefits to Nelson are apparent to anyone with a brain, but he deserves credit, too, for deciding the Scouts' good works make the most useful championing.

The U.S. Supreme Court has told the ACLU it can't make Scouts accept homosexual leaders or stop them from requiring Scouts to believe in God. Talk about sore losers! Since then, the ACLU and allied groups have sought to nip the Scouts' death.

Lefty groups have pressured charities to cut off money to the Scouts, and allied lawyers have looked for every excuse to cause trouble for them.

The ACLU & Co. don't like that the Scouts exclude gay leaders for young boys and require that members believe in God. In red states, these notions are as American as apple pie.

Last month, the Pentagon agreed to warn its military bases not to directly sponsor Scout troops. The military did it to settle an

allegation that the government was engaging in religious discrimination because Scouts must acknowledge the existence of a (nonsecular) supreme being.

In the ACLU worldview, that is a gross violation of the rights of atheists and, perhaps more important, it symbolizes a mentality the group would like to see banished from our shores.

Nelson — gets an A for understanding his constituents — the same folks Democrats need to win national elections. ...

Nelson has embarked on a tour of Florida in which he is meeting with Scout organizers to assure them that they will continue to get indirect military help in their efforts. He tells them that military personnel still can sponsor Scout troops on their own time and use military bases for meetings.

And he introduced a resolution urging not just that the Pentagon support the Scouts, but that it fund their jamborees. The resolu-

tion passed the U.S. House of Representatives 391-3, with the only dissenting votes from Democrats with the safest of seats. Nelson says that if the resolution doesn't work, he'll get the support enacted into law.

Nelson is taking a page from the gospel of winning elections in the South laid down by Clinton. In 1992, Clinton picked a fight with Jesse Jackson to demonstrate his independence from black leaders who historically have been strong Democratic supporters, but whose policies and personalities have often alienated the much larger number of white voters.

We'll see if Democratic activists hold Nelson's coyness up to the Scouts against him. If they do, the Republicans will be thrilled to see even more Democratic political careers. As they say in treatment, the first step toward rehabilitation is admitting the problem.

Peter A. Brown is an editorial page columnist for the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Horoscope

What's not to love about the Leo moon as it imparts its generous and regal energy, lending its passion and unique entertainment? All right, things are sometimes just too sickeningly grand and dramatic to the level of exhaustion, but other than that, what's not to love? Get in touch with your inner royalty. Make a gesture appropriate to the day.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(December 2). Your dogged determination in previous years will pay off this year! Watch your original ideas bear fruit. Continuing to encourage people around you is key to making the most of improved finances through March. Couples make new rules in the spring. Singles: Be bold enough to make the first move. Lucky signs are Aquarius and Gemini.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You'll be drawn to eccentric types — the sort who wear a hat and fox fur to empty the garbage. These folks have something invaluable to teach you about joyful living and could take you under their wing if you're willing to learn.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You're feeling detached, as though what's happening to you is actually happening to someone else and you're merely a witness. There's power in this frame of mind. You can honestly tell yourself what behavior needs changing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Everyone needs someone else for balance. You're the reasonable one now, so naturally, the unreasonable people are drawn to you. Remind that whining someone: If you work for the butcher, don't complain about the blood.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

In order to give up a struggle, you've first got to recognize it as such. Are you flowing with the current, treading water or swimming upstream? A strong female will help you out if you show gratitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Sliding up for your rights is one thing, but causing turmoil when the problem is really your own is quite another.

Figure out what's really bothering you. Then, instead of dragging another person into it, you can simply drop it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your circle of pals is feeling verbal, witty and verging on rude. There are so many zingers being shot around that you'll feel like you're at a Friars Club roast! Be careful not to let the lun to get out of hand.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're a fanatic practitioner of fair play, feeling that if you don't make sure everyone is getting treated correctly, there could potentially be a problem.

To avoid resistance to your ideas, give credit wherever possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sometimes, for the sake of making a relationship better, you must forget your quest to make a relationship better for a few days. A relationship is a living thing and requires breathing room and time on its own to grow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's practically no end to your optimism. Life may not be how you are seeing it, but isn't that the point? Ultimately, your sunny attitude will reduce stress and keep you focused on what's important.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You instinctively know how to use the element of surprise. You've stashed tricks up your sleeve you haven't even used yet! In fact, you're the sign most likely to jump out of a birthday cake — metaphorically speaking, of course.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The constant assembling and reassembling of data gets overwhelming. You'll start to feel that the world is random and not connected — but then, you get over that in five minutes, and it's back to your usual hopefulness.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Get a conversation going between family members. You don't need to come up with the right answer today, but it's helpful to let the talk take you on a trip together. The more thought provoking your questions, the better.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



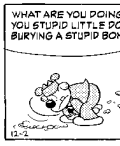
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fox Trot



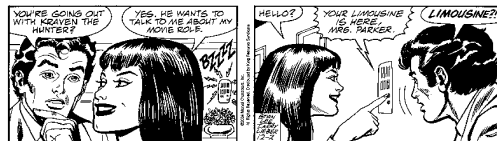
B.C.



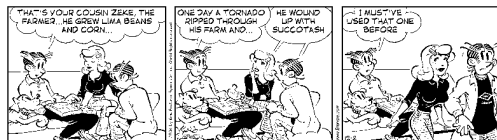
Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



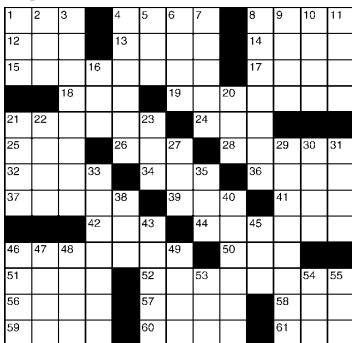
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Subtraction result (Abbr.)
4 —Raton, Fla.
8 Use fingerprints
12 Immigrant's study (Abbr.)
13 Prior nights
14 Fashion reporter
17 Doggerel, e.g.
18 Luau bowlful
19 Bank staff
21 Talented
24 Paulo preceder
25 Every last crumb
26 Watch pocket
28 Interval of recurrence
32 Lahr role
34 Diastema
36 "Pygmalion" writer
37 Bolivian city
39 Uncultured
41 Rocks, at the bar
42 Director Burton
44 Friendly spirit
46 Mama's boy?
50 Calendar pp.
51 Sub in a tub
52 Careless
56 Blueprint
57 Bean curd
58 Buy now, pay later
59 Lacking, in Lyons

Down

- 60 Did laps
61 R.N.'s specialty
27 Prohibit
29 Golf tactic
30 Spike the punch
31 Basin accessory
33 Lands
35 Att. counterpart
38 Nothing
40 Money
43 Necessities
45 "Mayday!"
46 "How silly of me"
47 Big name in scat
48 Campus bigwig
49 Intermittent
53 "— picture paints
1,000 words ..."
54 Pussycat's partner
55 Xmas abbr.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-2

CRYPTOQUIP

M H S L N M E F M J I T Q V Q
Y V Q G G X , T M G B M K X
U W K Q V M J I A N U B W H M G ,
M G T W N E F L Q Z M A Y E X
F Q - K M J Q !

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CONCERT PIANISTS
MIGHT ALSO BE GOOD CHESS PLAYERS.
THEY'RE BOTH GRAND MASTERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equal E

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630

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Pets

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Foster - Male Beagle Puppy for sale \$250, born 7/16/04. Bought at CDF pet store and in town, never able to give the time and attention he needs. Very friendly and playful. Includes kennel and all gear. \$200. JFC can call 464-5680 or Sgt. Morrison at 619-310-0. E-mail at 181ks@yahoo.com.

Photography 830

Foster - Olmex - Parasite F2-10. Comes with 64mb card. Like new! just bought! This spring, but I want something a little more professional. Asking 275.00. Its \$350.00 new at PX. Email olmex@yahoo.com or call 646-2432.

Kadena - Olmex - Sony digital camera 1.3 mega pixel, comes with case, instructions and extra memory card. \$45 call 633-6162.

Kadena - Palm Zire 72 Alumni - New! Just bought. In original package. This light weight phone is perfect for taking photos without needing the extra \$15. Call 656-2652 great gift idea.

Kadena - Tokina RMC 300mm Telephoto Lens for Canon mount camera. \$50.00 obo. Email weecratty@texas.org for pictures or more information. Or call 633-3163.

House Unfurnished 878

Kadena - American style house and land for sale in Gushikawa. Three story, three bathroom 2400 sq ft. Lot 66' x 32'. Quiet neighborhood. Local training US Government employees available. Call Chris Dittell 930-9787-5302.

Toys 945

Foster - Olmex - We are searching for a used train table in good condition. Please contact us at 646-4396 or email lucamorgan@yahoo.com

Kadena - Step 2 desk and chair. Like new chrome desk features granite-like surface, multiple drawers, working clock and desk light. Pulled but holds a 12x18" paper. Matching chair complete. Ask \$119. \$50. 10/04. LUCMORGAN 633-5134.

Kadena - Fisher Price Jump n' Run Deluxe. Never used. Excellent condition. No doorway required. \$30.00 firm. Call Caitlin at 637-3199 or Email deagay@oasis.mediatel.net for pictures.

Kadena - TOYS: Preschool thru 2nd grade learning toys, computer programs, cassettes, videos, books, puzzles, teaching aids. HomeSchool cleaning house. Year sale price \$4 to \$25. Call for complete list and prices. E-mailed to toy24@yahoo.com.

Zame, Japan - Jami 911C: Game with backlight, comes with original case, 2 chargers and game. Devices, game card and original software and box, great condition. \$30 OBO. Call 263-8941 or email leopardo.gamemaster@att.net army mil.

Sporting Goods 980

Foster - Olmex - Camron Black Iron Anabolic Steroids 200 for sale. \$275.00 or \$160.00 obo. Hip-Kip. Call 646-4374 or e-mail suligym@yahoo.com

Foster - Olmex - Redbox alarm case stopper system still in box. \$150.00. Call 646-2432.

Foster - Olmex - Women's Mizuno golf clubs. Drove through 9 holes. \$150.00. Call 646-2432.

Kadena - Almost new 14 foot transponder with enclosure. Great condition. One two months old. My kids are just too young for it. Would make a great Christmas gift. \$300 OBO. Call 633-1443 or e-mail amyfuehl@hotmail.com

Kadena - Medium Sherwood Shouette BCD, great condition. Asking \$125. OBO. Call 633-3729

Kadena - Olmex - Men's Body Glove 2 pc wet suit and dive skin \$175 OBO. black force fire \$60. Mask - snorkel. Tusa Plasma \$25. Mask - snorkel. Tusa Para Deep new \$35. full size dive boots \$15. Akaoka dive buoy or shoulder strap \$20. Sale. \$200. 1200 OBO. Call 1000-637-6727

Kadena - Olmex - Snorkel set with bag for sale. Includes mask, medium long wet suit, fins, snorkel, BCD, flippers, and mask with storage. Also weights and gloves. Great is in excellent condition. Only used twice. Selling for \$150. Call 633-1443

Kadena - Olmex - Star step for jet service. Winter. Adjustable heights. Make offer. Call 633-1443

Kadena - Olmex - Dive gear. Tanks, fins, wet suits, BCDs, masks, regulators, BC's, gloves, masks and snorkels all reasonably priced. Call 633-4806.

Kadena - Olmex - Oregon Shadow Dive Mask. Worn once snorkeling. \$89.91. My face. Bought new for \$60.00 will sell for \$40.00 OBO. Call 637-4454 or e-mail 1mon@shawcable.com

Kadena - Japan - Exercise bike. Excellent condition. \$200.00. Call 227-8694.

Kadena - VHS kids movies for sale. Most are Disney movies. Too many to list. Email monoserv@yahoo.com for a list. Asking \$5 OBO.

Video 1020

Miscellaneous 1040

Courtesy - Olmex - Walker good shape. \$15.00. Call 646-4374 or e-mail suligym@yahoo.com

Foster - Olmex - Miracle Blade \$175.00 call 646-4618 or email olmex@yahoo.com

Foster - Olmex - Red Fats bought at auction, excellent condition. \$30.00. Call 646-4374 or e-mail suligym@yahoo.com

Foster - Olmex - Wooden Thomasville bunk bed set. Set can come apart and be two single beds. Great condition. \$100.00 OBO. Black glass rockers. Excellent condition. Great condition. \$100.00 OBO. White pool table. \$25.00. Contact Debbie at 646-8213.

Kadena - Nautilus Aerobic cycle \$550.00 asking \$350. JVC Digital camcorder. \$150.00. Call 646-4374 or e-mail suligym@yahoo.com

Kadena - Olmex - Fantron canister, bag-less vacuum cleaner with 2 extra filters listed for 2 months! \$75.00 and Costco listing \$100.00. Lucite top, unused still in box. \$50.00. Call 633-4452 or e-mail deagay@oasis.mediatel.net

Kadena - Olmex - I have a very large Disney snow globe bought in New York. A few small areas of chipped from plane ride. \$25. \$125, asking for \$60.00. Contact 637-3787 or email angelicababy623@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 3 story oak clubhouse with accessories. Butterfly Scene, fire trucks, military toys, Zuijin 10-100 no-cooker. Oster blender/coffee, phones, DVD, VHS, and much more. Call 227-3639.

Yokota, Japan - Children's clothing and toys, computer items, stuffed animals, electronic games and cooking ware, call for details. 227-3639

Yokota, Japan - Nissan P1800 4 door. Power. Vibration. \$1800. \$100.00. Call 227-3639.

Yokota, Japan - Vtech (2431) 24 cordless phones, includes one base with phone, 2 additional hand sets. \$150. Amazon 900 MHz wireless head phone. \$25. 197 Corvair. \$25. BCDSE AM-5, 5400, and AM-7, 5500, black rock table with chairs. \$90. Mini JVC 3-CD Cassette with speaker. \$45. Call 227-0425.

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Favre, Pack have a lot to celebrate

BY ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Brett Favre's fine-up teamates helped make his latest milestone a memorable one.

Favre celebrated his 200th straight regular-season start with three touchdown passes and yet another record in the Green Bay Packers' 45-17 rout of the St. Louis Rams on Monday night.

"I'm humbled by it," Favre said. "It is an honor to put on an NFL uniform. Just to suit up once is a dream and everything I've done after that is a bonus. I'm living a dream every day."

Backup tailback Najeh Davenport rushed for 178 yards and rookie cornerback Al Ahmad Carroll, the Packers' top draft pick, had his first career fumble recovery, touchdown and interception as the Packers (7-4) won their sixth straight.

"When you get drafted by Green Bay, the first thing you think of is playing with Brett Favre," Carroll said. "When I go home, the first question people ask is, 'How does it feel playing with Brett Favre?' What did he say in practice? How is he?"

"He is not like other people in the NFL. That's for sure."

Favre's record streak of starts moved to 219, counting playoffs, and is almost 100 more than Ron Jaworski's previous NFL quarterback mark of 123.

Favre took over for an injured Don Majkowski on Sept. 27, 1992. Since then, 11 of his back-ups have gone on to start for another team. Last week, Eli Manning became the 178th quarterback to have started a game in the NFL since Favre last came off the bench. The Rams have had 13 quarterbacks in that span.

Favre didn't like the hoopla surrounding his 200th regular-season start.

"It was a lot of pressure to perform," he said. "I didn't need all the added attention. [But] I treated this no different than any other game."

Davenport said after the fifth-highest single-game rushing total in franchise history that he has just glad to be a part of Favre's memorable night.

"Brett Favre is unbelievable. It's a great honor to play with him," Davenport said.

The top-topped 200th passing season was the 11th straight season, breaking a tie with Dan Marino on a 7-yard toss to tight end Bubba Franks in the second quarter that made it 14-3. He also threw touchdown passes to Jason Walker and Donald Driver.



Packers running back Najeh Davenport leaves Rams safety Rickey Coody behind on a 40-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. Davenport rushed for 179 yards in place of Alman Green.

Alman Green was out with injured ribs. But Davenport came up with a strong unit, gaining 178 yards on 19 carries in his first NFL start even though he had two sore hamstrings and injured his ribs, too, on his third carry.

Marc Bruce threw for more yards — 448 — against Green Bay than any quarterback ever, completing 35 of 53 passes, but he was overshadowed by Favre and St. Louis (5-6) missed a chance to tie Seattle atop the NFC West.

"Any time you play against Brett Favre, you're not going to get the spotlight," Bulger said. "It was his night."

Isaac Bruce caught nine passes for 170

yards and a touchdown but his two fumbles were returned for touchdowns, one by Carroll to start the scoring and one by Michael Hawthorne to cap the rout in the final minute.

Bruce's 4-yard TD catch just before half-time brought St. Louis to 21-10, and in the third quarter Martz made a questionable call — a fake field goal when a 42-yarder by Jeff Wilkins would have made it a one-possession game. Wilkins was stuffed 12 yards shy of the first down on fourth and 7.

Not only did the Rams get nothing out of a nearly eight-minute drive, but the Packers went 71 yards in four plays, capped by Driver's touchdown that gave Green Bay a 28-10 lead.

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	0	0	.909	288	174
N.Y. Jets	8	0	0	.727	225	168
Buffalo	5	0	0	.455	218	192
Miami	4	0	0	.244	164	277
Indianapolis	6	3	0	.727	380	329
Jacksonville	6	5	0	.545	182	208
Houston	6	5	0	.545	229	260
Tennessee	4	7	0	.364	207	243
Pittsburgh	10	1	0	.909	256	168
Baltimore	7	4	0	.636	201	162
Cincinnati	5	6	0	.455	241	246
Cleveland	5	8	0	.273	225	266
San Diego	8	0	0	.727	219	221
Denver	7	4	0	.636	257	192
Oakland	4	4	0	.364	204	274
Kansas City	3	8	0	.273	207	299

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Philadelphia	10	0	0	.909	201	164
N.Y. Giants	5	6	0	.455	202	299
Dallas	7	4	0	.636	193	289
Washington	3	8	0	.273	138	194
Atlanta	9	2	0	.818	232	215
Carolina	4	7	0	.364	221	236
New Orleans	4	7	0	.364	232	312
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	206	203
Tampa Bay	7	4	0	.636	201	247
Minnesota	7	4	0	.636	201	162
Chicago	4	7	0	.364	172	221
Detroit	4	7	0	.364	287	257
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	239	223
St. Louis	5	6	0	.455	237	299
Arizona	4	7	0	.364	190	277
San Francisco	1	10	0	.091	192	320

Thursday's games

Indianapolis at Detroit 8

Dallas at Chicago 7

Sunday's games

Houston at Tennessee 16

Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants 6

Cincinnati at Cleveland 48

San Diego at Kansas City 31

Carolina at Tampa Bay 16

Atlanta at New Orleans 21

Buffalo at Seattle 9

N.Y. Jets at Arizona 3

Miami at San Francisco 17

New England at Baltimore 3

Denver at Dallas 24

Monday's game

Green Bay at St. Louis 5

Atlanta at Miami

Arizona at Buffalo at Sunday

Houston at N.Y. Jets

Cincinnati at Philadelphia

Tennessee at Indianapolis

Cleveland at Tampa Bay

San Francisco at St. Louis

Carolina at New Orleans

Atlanta at Cleveland

Denver at San Diego

Kansas City at Oakland

N.Y. Giants at Washington

Arizona at Philadelphia

San Francisco at Jacksonville

Dallas at Seattle

Monday

Packers 45, Rams 17

St. Louis 0 10 0 7-17

GB-Carroll 40 fumble return (Longwell kick), 12:23.

Second quarter

STL-GW Wilkins 34, 12:47.

GB-Franks 7 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 7:25.

GB-Walker 10 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 2:55.

Third quarter

STL-Brice 10 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 1:04.

Fourth quarter

STL-Mauk 8 pass from Bulger (Wilkins kick), 14:45.

GB-FG Longwell 27, 8:29 (Longwell kick), 1:52.

STL-Headroom 33 fumble return (Longwell kick), 4:36.

STL

First downs 20

Total net yards 147

Rushes-yards 17-47

Passes-yards 10-45

Punt Returns 1-4

Kicks-Points 4-49

Interceptions Ret. 0-0

Comp-Att-Pct 35-51 68.2

Fumbles-Yards Lost 4-43 0

Sacked-Yards Lost 2-30 3-63

Time of Possession 32:00 26:40

GREEN BAY

Rushing-St. Louis, 33-230 8-40

Mauk 17, Bulger 10, Brice 15

Green Bay, Davenport 19-178 6-42

Chalmers 16, Favre 2

Passer Rating 91.7

Green Bay, Favre 18-27-215

Passing-St. Louis, Brice 9-170, 7.0

Mauk 6-9, 137-6, 7.0

Mauk 5-14, 5-14, 5-14, 5-14, 5-14

Cleveland 17, Green Bay, Driver 6-85, Ferguson 4-23, 4-23, 4-23, 4-23

Longwell 2-7, Fisher 1-1, Davenport 1-8

Missed field goal-St. Louis, Wilkins 42 (WL).

McNair hints he's thinking about retiring

BY TERESA M. WALKER

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — To be clear, Steve McNair never used the word "retirement."

But the co-MVP in 2003 sent a clear message that he's hurting, and this time the physical pain mixed with a losing season has the Tennessee quarterback thinking about quitting.

"I feel like at this point in time you have to take a hard look at it," McNair said after a 31-21 loss to the Houston Texans on Sunday that ended the Titans' playoff hopes and put them in the AFC South cellar.

"Back in the days, I used to play and play well when I was hurt, but at the same time it has taken a toll. I just have to look at it and evaluate myself, but I'm going to continue to work hard this season and do the best I can do to try and win five ballgames."

Coach Jeff Fisher didn't hear of McNair's comments until the team was on the way to the airport in Houston. He spoke with McNair Sunday night and again Monday and feels McNair, who turns 32 on Feb. 14, was simply frustrated.

"I know how he feels. When you go from where he was last year to where he is now, it's a team, there's frustration. And then you add the physical issues with him, I was not surprised whatsoever. He does not like losing football games," Fisher said.

McNair, who was not available Monday, has become known for his ability to play through pain. He has a full page in the Tennessee media guide that details his injuries and six operations or procedures before this season.

He went 5-0 in December 2002 despite not practicing once with back spasms, turf toe and strained ribs. Six weeks after

back surgery in 1999, he led the Titans to their only Super Bowl appearance.

This season hasn't come anywhere close to what McNair wanted as an MVP follow-up.

While co-MVP Peyton Manning of Indianapolis, whom the Titans (4-7) play Sunday, is on a record-setting pace, McNair has thrown two more interceptions (nine) through seven games than he did last season. A bruised sternum kept him out of two games and parts of two games, and his passer rating of 73.1 puts him behind 23 NFL quarterbacks.

McNair opened Sunday's game looking like the quarterback who led the NFL in passer rating in 2003. He hit his first seven passes and threw three touchdown passes in the first half. In the second half, he lost two fumbles and was intercepted once, and he publicly blamed himself after the loss.

"You get to wondering if things continue to be that way, you have

to take a long look at it after the season to see what you're going to do," McNair said.

Asked if that meant not returning to lead the Titans, McNair said he is just evaluating. Does that mean he will consider quitting?

"That's up to me," he said. "Like I said, I'll evaluate myself at the end of the season, and we'll see."

The comments didn't surprise Colts coach Tony Dungy, who said he got the impression from McNair at last February's Pro Bowl that the quarterback wasn't the type of guy to play forever.

"He's been to the Super Bowl, he went to the Pro Bowl last year, he's finally been the MVP of the league, and I'm sure he wants to get to another Super Bowl. But I didn't get the sense that he was looking to play 10 years down the road. I think he had some things in mind," Dungy said.

The quarterback is under contract through 2009 and due a \$50 million option bonus after the 2005 season.

Davis resigns from last-place Browns

Four-year tenure marked by nagging injuries, close losses

BY TOM WITHERS

The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Cleveland Browns coach Butch Davis resigned under pressure Tuesday, leaving a last-place team with five games left in a sinking season filled with close losses and costly injuries.

The Browns dropped their fifth straight game on Sunday, 58-48 at Cincinnati. The team went 24-36 and made the playoffs just once in Davis' four seasons as head coach.

Davis left with three years remaining on a contract worth about \$12 million. Browns president John Collins said the team worked out a financial buyout with Davis, but did not reveal any details of the settlement.

Collins said he was surprised when Davis' agent, Marvin Demoff, informed the team Monday night of Davis' intention to resign.

"This was Butch's decision," said Collins. "I'm personally disappointed."

Collins said the Browns will immediately begin a search for a general manager before they hire a new coach.

Offensive coordinator Terry Robiskie will coach the Browns for the rest of the season. His first game won't be an easy one as the Browns host the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots on Sunday.

"He picked a hell of a week to make this decision," joked Robiskie, who served as Washington's interim coach for three games in 2000 after the Redskins fired Norv Turner. "I'm not auditioning for the job. I just want to see the Cleveland Browns win."

Pressure had been mounting on Davis for weeks as the Browns' season crumbled with a score of injuries to key players and a handful of agonizing losses. Things got so difficult for Davis and his family last week that he sent his wife and son to Florida to avoid all the attention.

The Browns, 3-3 this year and just 8-19 since the end of the 2002 season, have 13 players on injured reserve, including six starters. They continually came up short in tight games during Davis' tenure, and this season was no different as the team lost three games by a total of 13 points.

In a statement, Davis said "intense pressure and scrutiny" made the move necessary.

"I accept responsibility for the mistakes that we have made," Davis said, "but it was my and my staff's intention to do everything we could to lay the foundation and build a team that could win a Super Bowl. I hope that some of my decisions we have made will be a part of a brighter future for the Browns organization."

"My future is clear for the moment. I



Butch Davis restored the University of Miami's winning tradition, but his tenure in Cleveland was marked by hard-luck losses.

have no immediate plans to stay in coaching."

Amid speculation last week that Davis was about to be fired, Collins said the Browns would remain in place for the rest of the season — unless he resigned.

Davis, who helped restore the University of Miami's program before joining the Browns in 2001, could be a candidate for the coaching opening at Florida.

Davis fought back tears during a meeting as he told Cleveland's players he was leaving.

"I didn't expect him to be emotional like that," said fullback Terrelle Smith. "He opened up his heart to us. He told us the

"My future is clear for the moment. I have no immediate plans to stay in coaching."

Butch Davis

story about his family and that makes you feel bad. But life goes on. I hate to see him go."

In January, Browns owner Randy Lerner gave the 53-year-old Davis a two-year contract extension through 2007 and the added title of executive vice president, despite the club's 5-11 record in 2003.

Lerner felt pressured to keep Davis, thinking the coach was being courted by several college programs.

Davis took the Browns to the playoffs in 2002, their only postseason appearance since returning to the NFL in 1999. But the team endured more than its share of hard-luck losses, sustained an array of injuries, underwent a roster-cleaning salary-cap purge in 2003 and a yearlong quarterback controversy last season; and mourned the death of owner Al Lerner.

Davis was on Cleveland's sideline when Browns fans rioted by throwing thousands of bottles on the field in 2001 and when linebacker Dwayne Rudd threw his helmet in the 2002 opening, costing the Browns a victory.

On Monday, Davis recounted some of those moments.

"In four years," he said, "I have seen some of the most bizarre things."

Asked if he planned to stay with the Browns, Davis said, "Sure. Absolutely."

Chiefs' Vermel, 68, vows to return next season

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The coach who made burnout a part of sports lexicon is 68 and enduring one of the most disappointing years of a long, distinguished career.

NFL **briefs** But there are no thoughts of another retirement for Dick Vermel, who said Tuesday he'll be back next season for the final year of his contract with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Sometimes I walk off the field feeling sorry for myself," Vermel said Tuesday. "That's human nature. I'd be a liar not to say that. Everything we do that fails I feel just as bad about today as I did in the late '70s and early '80s. But I handle it better."

Expected to be a Super Bowl contender after posting a 13-3 regular-season record last season, the Chiefs are 3-8 and on a four-game losing skid. There are no playoff games looming, only big challenges on the field and possibly in front office.

But Vermel, who walked away from the Philadelphia Eagles in 1982 citing emotional exhaustion and burnout, said he's determined to be back.

"I would certainly hope [so]," said Chiefs General Manager Carl Peterson, a friend from their Philadelphia days who coached Vermel out of his second retirement in 2001, after he led the St. Louis Rams to a Super Bowl win.

"He's got a two-year contract. I would be very surprised if that changed for any reason. He's a very resilient guy. He's determined. I think he's anxious to try to get this thing going in the right direction."

For the third year in a row, a faulty defense has ruined an outstanding year from one of the NFL's top offenses. There is

mounting criticism not only of the coaching staff, but of the player personnel and scouting departments.

Jets' Pennington strives to play Sunday

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Chad Pennington's doubts optimistic about his chances of playing for the New York Jets on Sunday. Pennington, who has missed the past three weeks with a strained right rotator cuff, is questionable for the game against Houston.

"I always said I'm going to come back when I feel I can help my team and not hurt my team," Pennington said Monday. "I feel that way. I feel like I can play well."

Whether coach Lovie Smith agrees could be the deciding factor. Pennington started throwing last week for the first time since getting hurt Nov. 7 at Buffalo at the end of a scramble.

Before a 13-3 win over Arizona on Sunday, he threw 50 passes with full velocity, ranging from short ones to 40-45 yards.

There has been no swelling in his shoulder and no setbacks, and Pennington does not know whether sitting out an additional week will be beneficial.

"Obviously, a week makes a difference if you don't get hit, but that's not where we are right now. This is football, and you do play hurt," Pennington said.

Parcells says Testaverde will start

IRVING, Texas — Bill Parcells isn't worried about the long-term future and the Dallas Cowboys are still in playoff contention in the miserable NFC. So the coach's decision was easy and expected.

Rookie Drew Henson, whose starting debut lasted one hit, is going back into watch-and-learn mode. And 41-year-old Vinny Testaverde is the starting quarterback again for the Cowboys (4-7).

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See Saturday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league.)
Browns: CB Leroy Williams (dislocated shoulder) out for season.
Browns: LB Andra Davis (torn knee ligament) out for season.
Colts: C Jeff Saturday (calf tendon) out 3-4 weeks.
Titans: S Tank Williams (knee tendon) out for season.

"He gives us the best chance to win," Parcells said Tuesday. "That's what I'm interested in doing, if we can."

Henson got his long-awaited first start against Chicago last Thursday after a sore Testaverde was limited in practice. But Testaverde returned after halftime in the game, and the Cowboys won 21-7.

Cardinals to start rookie QB Navarre

TEMPE, Ariz. — The Arizona Cardinals are turning to yet another quarterback, this time rookie John Navarre.

The seventh-round draft pick from Michigan, who never has taken a snap in an NFL regular-season game, will make his debut Sunday when the Cardinals visit Detroit.

Coach Dennis Green announced the move Monday, benching Shaun King after two starts and going with Navarre over Josh McCown, who had the job for the first nine games.

"Isn't that the American dream?" Green said. "Isn't the American dream all about opportunity? If one guy hasn't worked out and another guy hasn't worked out, why shouldn't the other guy get a chance? And I've got a lot of confidence in him. I think he'll do fine."

Green said McCown would be the backup, with King expected to third string after the Cardinals (4-7) scored just 13 points in his two starts.

"Quick hook? Yeah," Green said. "Tough

business, and you don't have to apologize for it being a tough business."

Smith to carry Vikings' load

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Antonio Smith, not former Pro Bowler Michael Bennett, will be Minnesota's starting running back for now.

"We'll try to define a role for Mike," coach Mike Tice said, "but I think right now we'll try to ride Antonio and see how he progresses down the stretch."

Smith, in his second year out of Oregon, racked up 421 combined yards in the Vikings' first three games before serving a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy. He had a season-high 20 carries for 72 yards in Sunday's 27-16 win over Jacksonville.

Henry might not have broken leg

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Travis Henry might not have broken a bone in his right leg, as first feared, according to coach Mike Mulaney. The team is conducting tests on the running back and should have a more definitive diagnosis when the Bills (5-6) return to practice Wednesday.

Henry, the backup to Willis McGahee, was hurt four plays into the team's opening drive in a 38-9 win at Seattle on Sunday.

Bucs release veteran PK Gramatica

TAMPA, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Buccaneers released struggling kicker Martin Gramatica on Tuesday and replaced him with Arena Football League kicker Jay Taylor.

The team's career scoring leader missed three field goals during Sunday's 21-14 loss at Carolina and was 11-for-19 this season. He missed seven of his last nine attempts and had not made a field goal over 22 yards since Oct. 10.

Peach Bowl wants Florida

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Peach Bowl wants Florida to play in the Dec. 31 game — and hopes

Bowl games

Ron Zook will bring around to coach the Gators for a few more weeks.

Bowl president Gary Stokan said Tuesday that the selection committee voted for Florida over Alabama as its choice from the Southeastern Conference, assuming the Gators are available.

There's one caveat: An Auburn loss to Tennessee in the SEC championship game could force the Peach Bowl to go in a different direction.

No. 20 Florida (7-4) is expected to play the loser of Saturday's Miami-Virginia Tech game. The winner will get the Atlantic Coast Conference's bid to the Bowl Championship Series.

Georgia vs. Wisconsin in Outback Bowl

ATLANTA, Ga. — Eighth-ranked Georgia (9-2) accepted an invitation Tuesday to meet Wisconsin (9-2) in the Out-

back Bowl, the Bulldogs' third straight appearance in a New Year's Day game.

Liberty Bowl matches Louisville, Boise State

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — No. 11 Boise State (11-0) accepted a bid Tuesday to play No. 7 Louisville (9-1) in the Liberty Bowl on Dec. 31 in a matchup of the nation's top two offenses.

BC to meet North Carolina in Continental Tire Bowl

BOSTON — Boston College will play North Carolina (6-5) in the Continental Tire Bowl on Dec. 30 in Charlotte, N.C., after a surprising loss kept the No. 17 Eagles (8-3) out of a Bowl Championship Series game.

Conn accepts bid to Motor City Bowl

STORRS, Conn. — Connecticut is headed to the Motor City Bowl, the Huskies' first postseason game as a Division I-A team. The Huskies (7-4) will play the winner of Thursday night's Mid-American Conference title game between Toledo (8-3) and Miami of Ohio (8-3).

Hamilton fired by cycling team

Olympic gold medalist twice tested positive for doping

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Olympic gold medalist Tyler Hamilton was fired by his cycling team two months after testing positive for blood doping.

Sports briefs

The Swiss-based International Cycling Union, or UCI, said Tuesday the Phonak team told the governing body that the American rider's contract was terminated last week.

Hamilton later confirmed the move on his Web site.

"After many discussions with team management, we concluded together that it would not be possible for the team to continue at the level we hoped with my name on the roster," he said.

Phonak was denied a racing license by the UCI on Tuesday because of the team's doping problems. Hamilton and the two other Phonak riders have been charged in drug cases in the past three months.

The decision means Phonak is barred from competing in all major events next year on UCI's Pro Tour, which includes the Tour de France.

Phonak told UCI about Hamilton's dismissal while the organization was considering whether to issue the tour license, but the governing body said the decision to fire Hamilton made no difference in its decision.

"This team does not provide guarantees in respect of sporting ethics as they apply to doping," UCI's licenses commission said. Its admission to the UCI Pro Tour would "... harm the image of cycling as a sport."

Hamilton's contract was scheduled to expire in December 2005. He said he agreed to leave to improve the team's chances of being able to compete on the pro tour.

Hamilton, a native of Marblehead, Mass., first tested positive for blood doping after winning the time trial in the Athens Olympics in August. But the case was dropped after his backup sample was frozen, leaving too few red blood cells to analyze.

Hamilton tested positive again for an illegal blood transfusion in the Spanish Vuelta in September, with both samples confirming the result. He faces a possible two-year ban if found guilty.

Dodgers OF Bradley charged with disorderly conduct

COLELEY, Ohio — Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Milton Bradley is in trouble again, this time charged with disorderly conduct after interfering with a traffic stop near Akron.

Bradley was charged after police stopped a woman for weaving on a highway Thursday. Police say Bradley, who was driving another car ahead of the woman, stopped on an exit ramp and walked on the side of the highway

until he reached the traffic stop.

"He started screaming to the officer something to the effect of, 'Why are you stopping my friend?' " Copley Township Police Chief Michael Mier said Monday. "The officer had to tell him several times to return to his vehicle, and he refused to do so."

At one point, Mier said, Bradley put his hands behind his back and "said 'I don't read and arrest me.'" Mier said.

The officer charged Bradley with a fourth-degree misdemeanor. He was not held but was issued a summons to appear Friday in Barborton Municipal Court. If convicted, Bradley could be sentenced to no jail time up to 30 days, and a maximum fine of \$250.

The woman, identified only as a friend of Bradley's, was not charged and allowed to leave, Mier said.

Bettman reiterates league's stand against luxury tax

EDMONTON, Alberta — NHL commissioner Gary Bettman reiterated the league's position that it won't consider the players' proposed luxury tax.

"They claim that will fix our problems, I'm here to tell you today ... that a luxury tax will not work and it will create a potential for future disaster in the NHL," Bettman said Tuesday at an Edmonton Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

Bettman also reiterated that the owners don't have a drop-dead date for when they would have to pull the plug on the 2004-05 season.

The NHL and NHLPA haven't had a formal collective bargaining session since Sept. 9 in Toronto, when the league officially rejected the union's luxury tax-based proposal.

The league has said it doesn't believe in a luxury tax because it doesn't guarantee cost certainty.

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Prosecutor: Players in brawl will be charged

The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Indiana Pacers players will be charged for fighting with fans during the Nov. 19 brawl at the end of a game against the Detroit Pistons, Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorceyca told The Detroit News.

"Whoever was involved in fistfights will be charged, regardless if they were wearing a jersey. It's obvious there were several Pacers players and fans that dealt blows," Gorceyca was quoted as saying in Tuesday's editions of the newspaper.

The prosecutor declined to say which players would be charged or what the charges might be. Auburn Hills police Lt. James Manning told the newspaper that he expects four members of the Pacers to face assault and battery charges.

Manning said during a news conference Monday that a lawyer for the Pacers told detectives that none of the players would agree to be interviewed by police. Prosecutors could get the police report by the beginning of next week, Manning said.

The fight between spectators and players broke out near the end of the game after an on-court dispute over a foul. A fan hurled a drink at Pacers forward Ron Artest, who charged into the stands, followed by teammates.

Artest was suspended for the rest of the season by the NBA. Magloire out three months

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans center Jamaal Magloire will be out up to three months with a dislocated right ring finger.

Magloire was injured in the fourth quarter of the Hornets' 95-86 loss at Phoenix on Friday and flew back to New Orleans for treatment. He will not need surgery.

Magloire was fined \$7,500 by the NBA on Tuesday for throwing a basketball at Golden State's Mike Dunleavy last week.

Celtics' West out indefinitely

ORLANDO, Fla. — Boston guard Delonte West is out indefinitely after breaking his right hand in the second quarter of Boston's 106-104 loss at Miami on Sunday night. It was only the rookie's second game since coming off the injured list. He broke his right thumb in the preseason.

Kirilenko to miss five games

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah Jazz placed forward Andrei Kirilenko on the injured list Tuesday with a knee injury and activated rookie forward Kris Humphries. Kirilenko sprained a ligament in his right knee Saturday night in a collision with Beno Udrih of the San Antonio Spurs. Kirilenko is expected to miss at least five games.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
New York	6	7	.462
Philadelphia	5	8	.385
Boston	5	8	.385
New Jersey	4	9	.308

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Miami	10	5	.667
Orlando	8	7	.538
Washington	5	9	.357
Atlanta	2	11	.154

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Indiana	9	5	.643
Cleveland	9	5	.643
Memphis	8	6	.571
Chicago	4	10	.286

Western Conference			
Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
San Antonio	10	5	.667
Dallas	9	6	.600
Houston	6	9	.400
New Orleans	5	10	.333

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Seattle	8	5	.615
Minnesota	8	6	.569
Utah	7	7	.500
Portland	6	8	.431

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Phoenix	11	2	.846
Los Angeles	7	5	.583
L.A. Clippers	9	6	.600
Golden State	6	9	.400

Monday's games			
Boston 117, Orlando 102	W	L	Pct
LA Clippers 94, Orlando 62	W	L	Pct

Tuesday's games			
Toronto at Atlanta			
Charlotte at Miami			
L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee			
Phoenix at Dallas			
Phoenix at Utah			

Wednesday's games			
Seattle at Portland			
Toronto at Orlando			
Memphis at Washington			
LA Lakers at New Orleans			
Philadelphia at San Antonio			
Cleveland at Phoenix			
Utah at Seattle			
Indiana at L.A. Clippers			
Minnesota at Golden State			

Thursday's games			
Houston at Dallas			
Cleveland at Denver			

Monday

Celtics 117, Magic 101

BOSTON	1st 23-21, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
MAGIC	1st 21-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23
LA CLIPPERS	1st 23-17, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
ORLANDO	1st 17-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23
LA CLIPPERS	1st 23-17, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
ORLANDO	1st 17-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23
LA CLIPPERS	1st 23-17, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
ORLANDO	1st 17-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23
LA CLIPPERS	1st 23-17, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
ORLANDO	1st 17-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23

Nuggets 76, Hornets 67

NEW ORLEANS	1st 23-17, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
NUGGETS	1st 17-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23
LA CLIPPERS	1st 23-17, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
ORLANDO	1st 17-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23
LA CLIPPERS	1st 23-17, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
ORLANDO	1st 17-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23
LA CLIPPERS	1st 23-17, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
ORLANDO	1st 17-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23
LA CLIPPERS	1st 23-17, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
ORLANDO	1st 17-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23

Clippers 94, Cavaliers 82

CLEVELAND	1st 23-17, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
CLIPPERS	1st 17-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23
LA CLIPPERS	1st 23-17, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
ORLANDO	1st 17-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23
LA CLIPPERS	1st 23-17, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
ORLANDO	1st 17-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23
LA CLIPPERS	1st 23-17, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
ORLANDO	1st 17-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23
LA CLIPPERS	1st 23-17, 2nd 23-17, 3rd 23-17, 4th 23-17, 5th 23-17
ORLANDO	1st 17-23, 2nd 17-23, 3rd 17-23, 4th 17-23, 5th 17-23

Celtics, Rivers earn big win

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Doc Rivers was cheered by his old fans, then his new team gave him a small measure of revenge.

Rivers' Boston Celtics snapped a four-game losing streak by beating the Orlando Magic 117-101 on Monday night, giving him a win the first time he faced his former team.

The Magic fired Rivers a year ago, after four-plus seasons, when the team stumbled to a 1-10 record. Rivers, the NBA's coach of the year in 2001, had a 171-168 record with three trips to the playoffs.

Rivers downplayed any questions of revenge, and deflected the attention to his players.

"Great win for us because we broke the losing streak we were on," Rivers said. "Our guys needed a win like this."

Paul Pierce scored 24 points, leading seven players in double figures, as the Celtics enjoyed their best offensive performance of the season. Marcus Banks added a season-high 20 in a reserve role.

The game was expected to be



filled with emotion — with Rivers being the most charismatic coach in franchise history. But by the time the ovation from Rivers' pregame introduction died down, the Celtics had put the Magic away.

"They attack the basket, so we thought if we could get stops and get up and down the court, then we could beat them before they set their defense," Rivers said. "That was something we saw on film that we could take advantage of, but the key was getting stops first."

The Magic missed 23 of their first 32 shots and by the time they steadied, the Celtics were gone. Boston went ahead by 10 midway through the first quarter, by 20 early in the second and the margin reached 27 with 5:37 left before the break.

"The key was, we got back on defense every time and we didn't allow them to have fast-break points," Rivers said.

On the other end of the floor,

the Magic played like the squad that got Rivers fired.

Orlando's toothless defense let Boston drive uncontested to the basket, leading to 11 dunks and layups in the first quarter.

Pierce's fast-break follow slam capped a 26-8 run for a 15-point lead with 3:44 left in the period.

Clippers 94, Cavaliers 82: At Los Angeles, Elton Brand had a season-high 30 points and six assists. Bobby Simmons scored nine of his 17 points in the fourth quarter, and the Clippers completed the second-best November in franchise history.

By winning their fourth straight game, the Clippers (9-6) have their best record in the month since the 1974-75 team, playing in Buffalo, went 12-4.

Nuggets 76, Hornets 67: Earl Boykins scored 22 points to help the Nuggets overcome the absence of Carmelo Anthony and defeat the Hornets at home.

The Nuggets won for the sixth time in seven games, but struggled mightily against the Hornets, who came into the final stop of a five-game road trip with the NBA's worst record.

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No. 2 Kansas doesn't fall into same trap vs. Nevada

The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Kansas got a big lead in a hurry and made sure Nevada couldn't repeat last year's upset.

Wayne Simien had 21 points and 10 rebounds for his third double-double in as many games, and the second-ranked Jayhawks opened with a 19-4 run Monday night on the way to an 85-52 victory.

Men's
Top 25
roundup

Kansas (3-0) led 43-16 at halftime and was up by as many as 39 points.

"I thought our defense was pretty good," Jayhawks coach Bill Self said. "I thought the whole team played sluggish in the second half, which is to be expected. We still have to learn to put our foot on the throat."

Nevada beat then-No. 6 Kansas 75-61 last year, an early highlight in a season in which the Wolf Pack went on to win the Western Athletic Conference, reach the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament and finish 25-9.

"Coach brought the old clips when they smacked us pretty good and the fans stormed the court," Simien said. "He did it to motivate us. I think it did work."

Nick Farnes, the Wolf Pack's leading scorer with a 23.3 average, was harassed by Christian Moody into 1-for-9 shooting in the first half and finished with 17 points.

"We are just young," first-year Nevada coach Mark Fox said. "We just couldn't execute our defense against their pressure defense."

Fox was promoted to replace Trent Johnson, who took over the Stanford program.

No. 6 Oklahoma St. 76, SMU 57: John Lucas scored 21 points to lead the Cowboys (4-0) as coach Eddie Sutton won for the 759th time, tying him for eighth



Kansas forward Wayne Simien (23) looks for the basket after getting past Nevada forward Kevin Pinkney (21) during the first half at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Kan., on Monday. Kansas won 85-52.

place on the Division I career list with Ed Diddle.

Lucas scored 11 points as visiting Oklahoma State took control in the first half with a 17-4 run.

Patrick Simpson had 20 points for SMU (2-1).

No. 16 N.C. State 60, Purdue 53: Julius Hodge had 22 points, eight rebounds and five assists to lead the Wolfpack to the home win on the opening night of the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

Ilian Evtimov had 12 points for the Wolfpack (5-0), who won their

first four games by an average of 37 points.

Carl Landry had 18 points for Purdue (1-3), which in coach Gene Keady's farewell season is off to its worst start since 1962-63.

No. 18 Texas 86, Coppin St. 50: Freshman Daniel Gibson scored 17 points for the Longhorns (4-1), who had 16 three-pointers, two short of the school record. Texas had nine threes in taking a 42-29 halftime lead.

Darryl Proctor had 11 points for the visiting Eagles (0-3).

Title IX case heard by Supreme Court

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A landmark gender equity law should protect people who report complaints of discrimination, the Supreme Court was told Tuesday as it heard arguments in the case of an Alabama coach fired when he protested the unequal treatment of his girls' high school basketball team.

"This is vital to promoting the purposes of the act," said government attorney Irving L. Gornstein, referring to the Title IX law best known for promoting women's athletics.

The Bush administration is supporting the position of the coach, Roderick Jackson, who lost his job in 2001 after repeatedly asking the Birmingham Board of Education to give him a regulation-size gym with basketball rims that weren't bent — just like the boys' team had.

Jackson then sued to get his job back permanently along with lost wages under the Title IX law.

At issue is whether Congress intended to allow lawsuits by those

who complain of gender bias — even if they are not direct victims — when it passed the 1972 law barring discrimination in any educational program receiving federal funds.

Justices appeared divided along ideological lines, with Ruth Bader Ginsburg and other liberal members expressing concern that barring suits like Jackson's would deter discrimination complaints.

Justice Antonin Scalia and his more conservative colleagues suggested Congress never intended that.

Kenneth L. Thomas, a lawyer representing the Birmingham school board, argued that the word "retaliation" is never mentioned in the statute. To allow whistleblowers, regardless of their sex, to sue would open school districts to a wave of lawsuits that lawmakers never intended.

Marcia Greenberger, Jackson's attorney, said on ABC's "Good Morning America" that he was trying to protect the rights of the girls to equal treatment with boys and should not have been punished for speaking out.

Notre Dame: Utah coach Meyer mentioned as replacement

NOTRE DAME, FROM BACK PAGE

But during his second year, the Irish fell to 5-7, with four of their losses coming by 26 points or more. It was Notre Dame's third losing record in five seasons, the team's worst stretch in 115 years of football.

One coach certain to be mentioned as a possible replacement for Willingham is Utah's Urban Meyer, an Irish assistant during 1996-2000. The Utes are 11-0 and ranked No. 5 in their second year under Meyer.

Meyer said he hadn't heard about Willingham's departure from Notre Dame until he was asked about it by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Asked whether he had any contact with Notre Dame or whether he would be interested in coaching the Fighting Irish, Meyer responded: "I won't comment on it."

Notre Dame has won eight AP college football national championships, more than any other school, with the last in the 1988 season under Holtz. Players from the school have won the Heisman Trophy seven times, also the most in college football.

But the Irish haven't won a bowl game since ending the 1993 season ranked No. 2 after beating Texas A&M 24-21 in the Cotton Bowl. Since then, the Irish have lost six straight postseason games.

NFL
Challenge

Hall
of
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STARS AND STRIPES

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Top Scores for Week 12

254	yankeesRt1	Spangdahlem
258	Bliz	DoDDS
252	Quick Pick	282nd BSB
246	PAC ATTACK	35 MXS
246	travieso	528th. SOSB (A)
246	Big Mama	JAC/RAF Molesworth
244	NobleMac357	Leighton Barracks
244	Narook	Yokota AB
244	Steel Thunder	Buechel AB
244	Tidbit	Stuttgart Military Comm.

Best Overall Scores

2000	STEELEFROGWOOD	MAG-12
1998	giants#1	hbc 2/37 ar
1990	arby	European Stars & Stripes
1984	SPIELMEISTER 04	Hohenfels
1978	Jac58	422 ABS RAF Croughton
1970	me	Darmstadt
1970	Jaguar One	DoDDS
1970	bam	2ND PLACEMENT
1970	dogboy	374 AMXS
1970	DREW	DoDDS

See website for official
games rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

Close won't be enough for Warriors

Taegu girls pushing for first title in Class A

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

Second chances don't come along that often. Taegu American's girls' basketball players are hoping they can make the most of theirs.

Most of the Warriors suffered the disappointment of finishing third for the

straight year at last month's Far East Class A Volleyball Tournament.

Their "second chance" could come in February's Far East Class A hoops tournament at Pusan. And fourth-year coach Michelle Chandler, while not proclaiming the Warriors as the team to beat, feels her squad will be a contender.

"We're looking good," Chandler said. "They're looking good at practice. Everything I've been teaching them to do for four years, they're finally doing."

The Warriors feature several veterans, with junior Kelli Cox working the middle, junior Lynette Grant doing the bulk of the scoring and Michelle Weal back in her role as defensive specialist.

Chandler's daughter, Ashley Gooch, is a senior and four-year starter. Lindsey Jackson, a transfer student from Clovis, N.M., is giving basketball a try after a successful volleyball season.

"(Jackson) sees the court well, she's a good team player, she passes well and makes strong decisions," Chandler said.

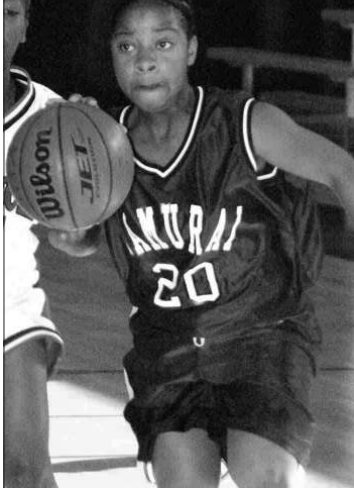
As gifted as some Taegu American teams have been over the years, the 2001 team was the only one to taste Class A center court, losing 44-22 in the final to Osan American.

Is this the year?
"This year or next year," Chandler said.

The Warriors face some strong opposition in reaching that goal:

- Osan American will continue to feed off a strong guard rotation, with senior Sharon Kneeling at point, and the tallest player in the league, 6-foot-4 junior Margaret Nurse, dominating the paint.

- E.J. King of Japan could sur-



JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Senior Cindy Stasher leads the Matthew C. Perry girls into this season. The Samurai look to improve on last year's 5-14 record.

prise with a strong returning core of sophomores Yudia Johnson and Pershida Bryant and junior Bianca Cruz.

- Pusan American, for the first time, has enough players to field varsity and jayvee teams, and their guard tandem of senior Brianna Carroll, Class A's reigning MVP, and freshman Shabrina Hayes will give opponents fits.

- Perpetually rebuilding Matthew C. Perry has a solid building block in senior guard Cindy Stasher.

"I can say my team is going to be strong, but Osan is going to

have its core back," Chandler said. "E.J. King will probably be strong, too."

What might finally put the Warriors over the top, Chandler said, is newfound self-confidence.

"To believe they can do it. Believe in themselves," Chandler said. "This is basically the same group of kids that could have done it (in Class A volleyball at Sasebo), but didn't believe they could."

The potential is there, Chandler says. "It comes down to what's inside of them. It's writers who can do with it on the court."

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Taegu American Warriors

Camp George, South Korea
Last season: 14-18, 3-5 in league; third in Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference; sixth in Far East Class A Tournament.

Coach: Michelle Chandler, fourth season.

Key returners: Kelli Cox, junior, forward-center; Lynette Grant, junior, guard; Ashley Gooch, senior, guard; Michelle Weal, junior, guard.

Outlook: Contending. Strong, junior-laden returning class, a year older, a year wiser and primed to finally take the leap past Osan American in league play and perhaps reach center court in the Class A tournament.

Osan American Cougars

Osan Air Base, South Korea
Last season: 25-13, 13-3 in league; second in Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference; two-time Far East Class A tournament runner-up.

Coach: Bruce Barker, 10th season.
Key returners: Margaret Nurse, junior, center; Sharon Kneeling, senior, guard; Sui Devin, senior, guard; Destiny Harris, sophomore, guard; Alyssa Fellows, sophomore, guard; Elizabeth Juergens, junior, guard.

Key newcomers: Kim Gerrard, junior; Dawn Moore, freshman; Jessica Guertel, freshman.

Outlook: Contending. Still boasting the biggest thing in the league, the 6-foot-4 Nurse, and experienced guards in Kneeling and Devin, the Cougars are still a major title threat in both the league and Class A. Losing Harris and Fellows close to tournament time will hurt though.

Pusan American Panthers

Camp Haleah, South Korea
Last season: 9-12, 4-5 in league; sixth in Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference; seventh in Far East Class A tournament.

Coach: Jonathan Parker, second season.

Key returners: Brianna Carroll, senior, guard; Cassie Carroll, freshman, guard; Shabrina Hayes, freshman, guard; Alison Kim, freshman, guard; Yoin Nelous, sophomore; Kristina Sagstetter, freshman; Angela Vandenberg, freshman.

Key newcomer: Kristine Meany, junior.
Outlook: Reloading/contending. For first time, Panthers have a junior varsity program; varsity won't have to rely on seventh- and eighth-graders to fill out a roster. Guard-oriented team plans to out-hustle other teams and play smarter ball, Parker says.

E.J. King Cobras

Sasebo Naval Base, Japan
Last season: 6-21, 1-11 in league; fifth in Japan League; ninth at Far East Class A tournament.

Coach: Bridget Vertin, first season.
Key returners: Yudia Johnson, sophomore, forward; Bianca Cruz, junior, guard; guard-chomper Bianca Cruz, junior, guard; power forward; Bryant, sophomore, power forward.

Key newcomers: Jance Chapman, senior, power forward; Krista Surben, freshman, point guard.

Outlook: Hoping to contend. From returning core to new players, sole motivating goal is to win the team's first title since 1997.

Matthew C. Perry Samurai

Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, Japan
Last season: 15-14, 5-8 in league; fifth in Japan League; ninth at Far East Class A tournament.

Coach: Rico Alexander, first season.
Key returners: Cindy Stasher, senior, point guard; Cristina Sindac, sophomore, power forward.

Key newcomers: Larina Alexander, shooting guard.
Outlook: Perpetually rebuilding. Will hustle on defense, but will struggle offensively.

Awards: Fall athletes ran away with titles

AWARDS, FROM PAGE 31

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAMS OF THE QUARTER: The East tournament time was an all-Guam party, with Academy of Our Lady extending its Class AA title record to nine, and Notre Dame of Guam grabbing its first Class A crown in its first appearance there.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS OF THE QUARTER: Academy's Emma Gillan was merely unstoppable, as was Nicole Tainatongo of Notre Dame in capturing respective MVP awards. Yokota's fifth-place Class AA finish might not have been possible without the hustle of senior setter Darlene Seely.

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A TRANSFER: With no football program at Matthew C. Perry this season, senior Adam Krievs moved to Nile C. Kinnick, where he ran 98 times for 613 yards and five touchdowns. He'll remain at Kinnick for the wrestling season.

BEST NEWCOMER: Sophomore Lindsey Jackson came to Taegu American from Clovis, N.M., and assumed the setter's role on the girls volleyball team, lifting the Warriors to second place in the KAIAC tournament.

GAME OF THE QUARTER: Yokota edged Kinnick 7-6 in a driving rain on Sept. 29 at Yokosuka Naval Base. Roach's 4-yard scoring run at the start of the fourth quarter, and Stefan Welch's extra-point overcame Lynce's 1-yard third-quarter sneak in a classic defensive struggle.

PLAY OF THE QUARTER: In that same game, Mark Dixon blocked an extra-point try after Lynce's touchdown, helping to save Yokota's perfect season.

MOST UNUSUAL MOMENT: During a Kanto Plain tennis match Sept. 18 at Yokosuka, a seahawk dropped a fish onto the court, interrupting play for five minutes. Kinnick coach Hiro Hinde attempted to toss the fish back to the hawk, "but he didn't take the bait," Hinde recalled.

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HOME TEAM

A WEEKLY LOOK AT LOCAL SPORTS

Two runaway winners

Kadena's Kauzlarich, Yokota's Roach found their stride in earning top fall athlete honors

BY DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

Exploding running backs have long been a Yokota Panthers football tradition. Kadena High is just beginning a tradition for standout cross country runners.

Senior back Chris Roach, who led Yokota to its fifth straight Rising Sun Bowl All-Japan championship, and junior runner Niki Kauzlarich, who paced Kadena to a record Far East meet finish, share Stars and Stripes' 2004 fall season Athlete of the Quarter honors.

From the moment Roach arrived at Yokota with his older brother Roy last year, Panthers coach Tim Pujol sensed that he was "a special guy."

While Roy set a Japan Football League record with 1,891 yards in 2003, Chris played a "more subordinate, more low-profile" role, Pujol said, netting 951 all-purpose yards, five touchdowns and six interceptions for the Panthers.

"He always has been going to have to handle a heavier load offensively this season" as Yokota's featured back, Pujol said. "He emerged into that more prominent role, more of a leadership role, something he did very well."

Well enough to amass 1,603 rushing yards and 22 touchdowns on 183 carries and four more TDs on returns as Yokota's sixth straight JFL and Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools titles. The Panthers outscored their foes 330-34.

Pujols said Roach, a 4.0 GPA student, set the example on the field with his talent and humility.

"He always has a lot of praise for the people around him, gives them credit, doesn't tout his own horn," Pujol said. "He's there to help up players after a play and pat them on the back for a job well done."

Kauzlarich, a 4.2 GPA student, won all nine Okinawa Activities Council seasons, defended her island championship, then became the second straight Kadena runner to win the Far East meet's 3.1-mile individual race.

The Panthers won every award either Far East meet, placing a record eight runners on the All-Far East team.

Kauzlarich's quiet leadership and work ethic helped raise the competitive level of her teammates, coach Tom McKinney said.

"Niki was always in the right place at the right time," McKinney said. Kauzlarich was willing to alter her own workouts to help her



Kadena's Niki Kauzlarich, left, capped a perfect Okinawa Activities Council season with a Far East cross-country title, Yokota tailback Chris Roach, right, gained over 1,600 yards as the top offensive weapon for the Rising Sun Bowl champion Panthers.

teammates, even running back in the pack to demonstrate a good pace and how to keep it going.

"She was a dedicated runner and she knew where she wanted to be when the season was over," McKinney said. "When she went to Far East, Niki had the mind-set that nobody was going to beat her. She showed she had the determination to win, and she did."

The rest of the Stars and Stripes fall sports quarter awards:

COACH OF THE QUARTER: Bonnie Seeley's Yokota girls volleyball team rose from the ashes of a 7-11 season in 2003 to match the school's best Far East Class AA Tournament finish — fifth place — after compiling a 15-7 regular-season record.

TEAM OF THE QUARTER: Kadena cross country, with its history-making Far East meet feat.

MOST IMPROVED TEAM: Yokota girls volleyball.

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: Kadena won the Far East tennis, cross country and cheerleading championships, and the Islanders' captured their first outright Okinawa Activities Council football title since 1983.

CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS OF THE QUARTER: Aside from Kadena, St. Mary's International of Tokyo enjoyed an unbeaten Kanto Plain boys season, while Seoul Foreign ran the table in the Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference.



PHOTOS BY DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS OF THE QUARTER: Turner and Kauzlarich made it a sweep for Kadena in the DODDS-Pacific meet, while St. Mary's J.M. Kwak and Seoul Foreign's Alanna Bennett capped unbeaten seasons by winning the Asia-Pacific Invitational's meet 3.1-mile races on Nov. 8 on Guam.

FOOTBALL TEAMS OF THE QUARTER: The Islanders had all eight games on their way to the OAC title. Seoul American claimed its fourth straight Korea title and ran its winning streak to 20 games.

FOOTBALL PLAYERS OF THE QUARTER: In his first year of football, Terry Stephens of Ogan American rambled for 1,008 yards and 10 touchdowns on 87 carries in just four games, including a Korea-record 343 yards on 25 carries in the season finale against Taegu American. Keith Loving helped pace the Islanders to the OAC title with 1,084 yards and 13 touchdowns on 171 carries.

TENNIS TEAMS OF THE QUARTER: Joining Kadena at the top of the heap were St. Mary's boys and the American School In Japan's girls, who ruled the Kanto Plain, and KAIAC champion Seoul International.

TENNIS PLAYERS OF THE QUARTER: Amy Lopes of Kadena became the first DODDS-Pacific Far East tournament girls gold medalist in nine years, while James Brackford of Pusan American won the boys' bracket.

SEE AWARDS ON PAGE 38

This week's schedule

Japan
Boys basketball
Thursday, Dec. 2
Nile C. Kinick at Christian Academy In Japan, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 3
Matthew C. Perry and E.I. King at Canadian Academy, Kobe, 4 p.m.
American School in Japan at Yokota, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 4
Nile C. Kinick at St. Mary International, 9 a.m.
Matthew C. Perry and E.I. King at Canadian Academy, Kobe, 9 a.m.
Yokohama International at Zama American, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 7
St. Mary International at Zama American, 5:30 p.m.
Nile C. Kinick at American School in Japan, 5:30 p.m.

Girls basketball
Thursday, Dec. 2
Nile C. Kinick at Christian Academy In Japan, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 3
St. Mary International at International School of the Sacred Heart, 5:30 p.m.
American School in Japan at Yokota, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 4
Robert D. Edgren at Zama American, 5:30 p.m.
Nile C. Kinick at American School in Japan, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 7
Zama American at Seisen International, 5:30 p.m.
Nile C. Kinick at Yokohama International, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 8
Yokohama International at St. Mary International, 5 p.m.
Yokohama International School of the Sacred Heart, 5:30 p.m.

Wrestling
Saturday, Dec. 4
Zama American at Nile C. Kinick, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 8
American School in Japan at Nile C. Kinick, 5:30 p.m.
Yokota at St. Mary's International, 5:30 p.m.
Christian Academy in Japan at Zama American, 5:30 p.m.

Okinawa
Boys basketball
Saturday, Dec. 4
Kadena at Japan American TBD, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball
Saturday, Dec. 4
Kadena at Kadena School TBD, 5 p.m.

Wrestling
Wednesday, Dec. 8
Kadena at Kubaishi, 6 p.m.

Girls soccer
Possession
Saturday, Dec. 4
Quarterfinals, 9 and 11 a.m.
teams and sites TBD.

Boys volleyball
Friday, Dec. 3
John F. Kennedy vs. Harvest Christian Academy at Guam Sports Complex, 5 p.m.

Football
Saturday, Dec. 4
St. Paul Christian vs. Simon Sanchez at Vige Gym, 5:30 p.m.

Possession
Saturday, Dec. 4
First round games, teams and sites TBD, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 7
Quarterfinal games, teams and sites TBD, 6 p.m.

Game of the week

Wrestling
Zama American (9-0)
at Nile C. Kinick (0-0)
When: 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4.

Where Nile C. Kinick High School Gymnasium, Yokosuka, Nava, Japan.

What: Season-opening Japan League and Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools basketball match, featuring a rising Zama American program and a Red Devil program that is generally a league and Far East contender.

After having not contested in either league or Far East, Zama fields its strongest team since the late 1980s, with one defending weight-class champion (heavyweight David Burnett) and three others who played in last year's Far East individual freestyle tournament.

Kim placed third in the individual freestyle and second in the dual-meet. All of whom placed in last year's Far East championship. In 2003, Anthony Garcia and Jason Williams were the winners who placed.

Wrestlers to watch Besides Wood and Burnett, there's Kinick's 135-pounder Yamato Chikuba, and middieweights Alex Curtis, Tyler Will and Kenji Doughty. All of whom placed in the top five and earned points in the last year. Newcomer Adam Garcia appears strong in the upper weights. Zama returns 15-pounder Matt Bohan, 120-pounder Anthony Garcia and 141-pounder Nick Villanasa, all of whom placed in Far East.

Fall Athletes of the Quarter nominees

Football
Ted Awana, Jr., Kadena Islanders, Okinawa.
David Burnett, Jr., Kadena Islanders, Okinawa.
Chris Hamilton, Jr., Taegu American, South Korea.
Angel Holman, Jr., Taegu American, South Korea.
Adam Kriev, Jr., Nile C. Kinick, Japan.
Scott Loving, Jr., Kadena Islanders, Okinawa.
Adam Kriev, Jr., Nile C. Kinick, Japan.
Scot Loving, Jr., Kadena Islanders, Okinawa.
David McLean, Jr., Kadena Islanders, Okinawa.
Donovan Nance, Jr., Zama American, Japan.
David Pichler, Jr., Seoul American, South Korea.
Gary Pennell, Jr., Kadena Islanders, Okinawa.
Nile C. Kinick, Jr., Yokota, Japan.
Tyler Schmidt, Jr., Kadena Buccaneers, Okinawa.

Stephen Stott, Jr., Taegu American, South Korea.
Ronnie Stephens, Jr., Kubaishi, Okinawa.
Clayton Stott, Jr., Taegu American, South Korea.
Scott Tunis, Jr., Taegu American, South Korea.
Joey Wood, Jr., Nile C. Kinick, Japan.
Alanna Bennett, Jr., Seoul American, South Korea.
Justin Bishop, Jr., Seoul American, South Korea.
Austin Bickler, Jr., Kadena, Okinawa.
J.M. Kwak, Jr., St. Mary's International, Tokyo.
Andre Paulson, Jr., Taegu American, South Korea.
Jude Thrasher, Jr., Robert D. Edgren, Japan.
Jon Taylor, Jr., Kadena, Okinawa.
Alanna Bennett, Jr., Seoul American, South Korea.
Heather Craker, Jr., Morrison Christian Academy, Taiwan.
Sarah Bushong, Jr., Guam High.
Shella Mesa, Jr., Guam High.
N-Xicole Tainatongo, Jr., Notre Dame, Guam.

Catherine Thornton, So., American School in Japan, Tokyo.
Lindsey Jackson, So., Taegu American, South Korea.
Chloe Gooch, Jr., Taegu American, South Korea.
Dorothy Lee, Jr., Seoul American, South Korea.
Margaret Nunez, Jr., Ogan American, South Korea.
Annie Boers, Jr., Robert D. Edgren, Japan.
Boys volleyball
Andrew Jasper, Jr., Seoul American, South Korea.
Francisco Delasantos, Jr., Kubaishi, Okinawa.
Aska Doyaki, Jr., Seisen International, Tokyo.
James Edwards, Jr., Pusan American, South Korea.
Malika Hovajali, Jr., American School in Japan, Tokyo.
Carol Lee, Jr., Seoul International.
X-Matopos, So., Kadena, Okinawa.
Amara Koffi, Jr., Ogan American, South Korea.
X-Amy Logically nominated as Most Valuable Player or individual champion of a DODDS-Pacific Far East or other Pacific-wide tournament.

SPORTS



Celtics paint town green
in Doc Rivers' return
to Orlando, Page 36

Notre Dame fires Willingham

School's first black coach failed to restore glory

BY TOM COYNE
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Coach Tyrone Willingham was fired by Notre Dame on Tuesday after three seasons in which he failed to return one of the nation's most storied football programs to prominence.

Willingham went 21-15, including 6-5 this season. The Fighting Irish lost 41-10 to No. 1 Southern California on Saturday.

"We simply have not made the progress on the field that we need to make," athletic director Kevin White said. "Nor have we been able to create the positive momentum necessary in our efforts to return the Notre Dame program to the elite level of the college football world."

Players are considering not playing in the Insight Bowl on Dec. 28, and White said he didn't know who would coach the game. Notre Dame accepted the invitation to the game on Sunday.

Willingham's firing comes after a season

in which the Irish pulled off upset victories over Michigan and Tennessee but also were beaten badly by USC and Purdue. Student groups were planning a protest on campus Tuesday evening to call for Willingham's firing; he faced criticism from fans much of the season.

White praised Willingham's handling of the team, especially the Irish's strong academic record.

"From Sunday through Friday our football program has exceeded all expectations, in every way," he said. "But on Saturday, we've struggled. We've been up and down and sideways a little bit."

White and Willingham met with some players Tuesday to tell them of the firing.

"As a player, you think it's our fault. We didn't get the job done," senior tight end Jared Clark said. "I think Coach Willingham was a great coach and I enjoyed playing under him."

Notre Dame's loss to USC on Saturday

marked the fifth time the Irish lost by 31 points or more under Willingham — including three against the rival Trojans. By comparison, former coach Bob Davie's team had just one such loss; Lou Holtz and Dan Devine had none.

Notre Dame hired Willingham, the first black head coach in any sport for the Irish, from Stanford to replace George O'Leary. The former Georgia Tech coach resigned five days after taking the job because he lied about his academic and athletic achievements on his resume.

With Tony Samuel fired by New Mexico State and Fitz Hill resigning from San Jose State last week, there are now only two black head coaches in Division I-A: Karl Dorrell at UCLA and Sylvester Croom at Mississippi State.

Floyd Keith, executive director of the Black Coaches Association, said he was disappointed with Notre Dame's decision.

"In three years, I think he has done everything, short of winning a national cham-

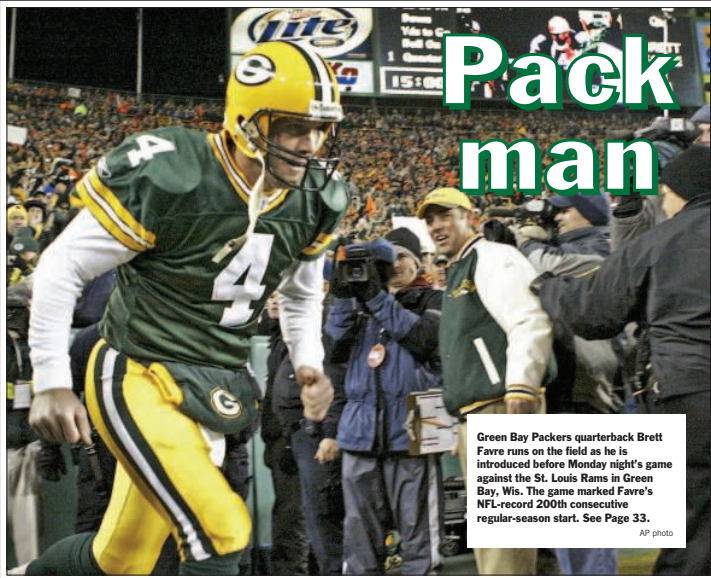


Tyrone Willingham

pionship and I don't think he inherited national championship talent," Keith said.

In his first season, Willingham had many fans recalling Notre Dame's glory days, taking over a losing squad and turning things around immediately. The Irish won eight straight games to start the season before finishing 10-3 and going to the Gator Bowl.

SEE NOTRE DAME ON PAGE 37



Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre runs on the field as he is introduced before Monday night's game against the St. Louis Rams in Green Bay, Wis. The game marked Favre's NFL-record 200th consecutive regular-season start. See Page 33.

AP photo



Embattled
Browns coach
Davis resigns

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No. 2 Kansas
overpowers
Nevada

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Our picks for the top fall high school athletes Page 39

